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Ericsson Cup Season Review



BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Editorial

This is the week for which all the Olympians have been preparing. It all starts on Saturday. The swimmers get off the blocks early, the track and field competitors a little later.

'Our' sport also kicks off on Saturday. There are a quartet of groups of four countries. They meet each other once within the group. The winners and runners up in each group progress to the 'Group of 8' or, if you like, the quarter finals.

The 18 players know each other and their respective styles most having played together for up to two years. The newest three members, Paul Agostino, Steve Horvat and Steve Corica have overseas experience.

The Olyroos convincingly won the Oceania qualifying group in Adelaide, in January. The temperatures they experienced then are similar to those in Florida this month. So the techniques they used both on and off the field in January will serve them well now.

The final elimination two match series in May created a great deal of interest and support both from the media but most importantly from the spectators.

Regrettably, as things stand with television schedules, we will see very little of the team. Highlights may be on free to air Channel 7.

The Pay TV company Optus Vision has the Men's Soccer Final live. It takes place on Sunday August 4 starting at 05.30. If Australia make it that far then we are assured of the opportunity to watch the Green and Gold but we have to see it on Pay TV.

Later that Sunday from 14.00 to 19.30 AEST (2pm-7.30pm) Optus Vision has their Olympic Review which should have Soccer somewhere in it. Do we have 5 1/2 hours to sit in front of the box — waiting?

On Tuesday July 23, also from 2-7.30pm, Optus Vision has another Olympic Review which is scheduled to contain soccer.

So ABC Radio may be our best bet. They have David Morrow in Florida to cover Australia's games. At least a radio commentary is better than nothing and allows the fan to use their imagination.

Most of us will be stuck with reading about the tournament. We'll bring you as comprehensive a coverage as possible.

12. Melbourne Knights

At last Victoria can boast a team of class and domination of the national scene as never before.

In the same breath as Sydney City, Marconi and Adelaide City historians will nominate the nineties Knights as legends of a passage of time.

Much has been documented and speculated on the "gutting" of the champions, but the inner spirit and taste for success remained.

turning point that changed the course of the championship.

Successful coach Mirko Bazic was replaced with untried Ian Dobson with half a season to go.

Dobson re-fired the Knights into a unit again hungry for success, Bazic was well known to be souring to the Australian scene and his side reflected his melancholy mood.

The new coach shrugged aside the cliched bleatings of his peers, who cried foul

Simunic shoulders arms with veteran Andrew Marth to thwart the marauding Marconi and defend the Knights castle.

The Somers St evening ignites and the patient and deserving Knights' fans grab the headlines and the glory.

Through the regular season the champions proved the - best defensively, allowing just 28 goals and at home conceding just seven goals in 16 matches.

goals and conceding only 3 against the Breakers, the Wolves and the Falcons.

Against Marconi and Brisbane, the Victorians were unbeaten and the two semi finalists failed to find Frank Juric's net through six matches, an amazing feat considering Brisbane and Marconi had two of the best four attacks in the league.

While Marconi never

came to terms with the Knights in six matches including the finals, Adelaide City were certainly a major thorn in their side. Managing a solitary point and goal in three matches, the champions managed to steer clear of City in the semis after clinching the duel play off spot on the final round of the regular season.

STATISTICS

Best: 17 victories, equal best.

Best: 28 goals conceded, the best.

Lowest: 25 goals scored at home, third worst in league.

Best: 7 goals allowed at home, outstandingly the best.

Best: 7 wins away, unmatched.

Best: 25 goals away, second best.

The club learnt to rebound from tragedy and despair through a series of fruitless campaigns, until the previous season's drought breaker.

Much in a similar style to previous Adelaide City campaigns, the new Knights stormed into yet another grand final after basically sitting dormant through two thirds of the season.

While two classy youngsters in Joe Simunic and Tom Pondeljak announced their arrival, there was one major

and the constant interruptions to the season, via the Olyroos, Socceroos et al.

Instead the breath of fresh air Dobson, continued to press on and set his tunnel vision on only one scenario.

The entire Ericsson Cup season was encapsulated in a vital 15 minutes of the championship decider.

Adrian Cervinski returning from a 12 month suspension fires home the Knights' clincher and through the vital final ten minutes the fresh Joe

Best Result: Grand Final
Worst Result: Doesn't matter.

Best Run: Lost just 1 of 11 games R20-R30.

Favourite Opposition: Morwell 9 points, 9-1.

Worst Opposition: Adelaide City 1 point, 1-7.

Most Individual Goals/Game: Andrew Marth 2 v Ad City R9, Morwell R30, Tom Pondeljak 2 v Wolves R11, Mowell R19, Joe Spiteri 2 v Brisbane R27, Morwell R30, Ice Kutlesovski 2 v Newcastle R28, Adrian Cervinski 2 v Canberra R32.

Top Scorer: Andrew Marth and Joe Spiteri 9.

Player Votes: Andrew Marth 16
Tom Pondeljak 15
Fausto de Amicis 12
Joe Simunic 12
Danny Tiatto 10
Lupo Lapsansky 10

Quote of the Year: "It's about time we did it for our supporters — they deserve it." Zoran Markovski with the final word.

Against the bottom three the Knights completed a 100% successful campaign, amassing 22



Joe Spiteri: Knights joint top-scorer.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Editorial and Knights
- 3,4 Australian Features
- 5,7 Olympic Games Special
- 6 Letters to the Editor
- 8 WA
- 9 Queensland
- 10 Northern NSW & Illawarra
- 11 New South Wales
- 12-13 Posters: Tsekenis, Juric
- 14 Results
- 15 World Stories
- 16, 17 & 18 Victoria
- 19 Women
- 20 South America
- 21, 22 & 23 British
- Front Page: Special Tribute to the Australian Olympians

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Atlanta 1996

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Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament

Corica injury dents Australia's hopes



Atlanta 1996

TM & © 1992 ACOG

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Australia's Olympic Soccer team's spirits have been severely dented with an injury to star attacking, right midfielder, Steve Corica. The injury is now causing great concern for Australia's Olympic coach, Eddie Thomson.

From Fort Lauderdale, Florida last night, Thomson told ABSW, "We played a warm-up match last Wednesday night against a South American Select team which we beat 6-0.

"But most unfortunately Stevie severely strained his thigh muscle which has caused us all a major concern.

"But we all hope that by Saturday he will be O.K. to play in our first Group match against France.

"Steve has been unable to train with us ever since

"Doctor Kanangara and our squad physio Pedro Ruze have been working round the clock to get Steve back in action.

"I really think that he will be right by Saturday."

Australia's Olympic Soccer team moved out of its pre-Games training camp at the Bona Venture Resort Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, last Sunday morning, and shifted into the Olympic Village at the Nova College in Miami.

Australia's Olympic coach went on to add, "The heat has been quite severe, boiling in fact, but the humidity is almost unbearable.



Steve Corica: Outstanding form till injured last Friday.

"The nights lately have become much cooler thank heavens.

"Again I must say just how glad I am that we decided to come here early as well as having set up another training camp in Townsville before we left Australia.

"Last Friday night we played another match against a Miami College side which we beat 7 nil.

"In this game we sustained injuries to both of our wing-backs, Goran Lozanovski and Ante Moric.

"But both were only coked muscle injuries and both should be ready to play by

Saturday.

"I was hopeful of getting another warm-up match, maybe against Japan, but they have already arranged a game against Mexico.

"During the week I have planned another game against a College side to practice up on corners, free kicks etc.

"All the lads have been training extremely well and all have been losing weight understandably. But with foods and liquids they put it back on.

"Ross Aloisi and Luke Casserly have been outstanding, as has striker Paul Agostino.

"Paul has scored for us something like four goals in two warm-up games so far," Thomson said.

It is expected that Thomson will have Aloisi, Casserly or Peter Tsekenis on standby should Corica be unable to start for Australia on Saturday.

To date, nobody from the Australian media in the USA has been anywhere near the Australian Soccer team.

"The only media we have had visiting us in camp has been a Brazilian television crew.

"They came to one of our training session last Friday and extensively filmed us going through our paces," ended Thomson.

Australia's first match at the Games is against France at the Orange Bowl in Miami on Saturday in Miami, 08.30 Sunday morning AEST, and Thomson has pencilled in the following as his preferred starting eleven:

Goalkeeper: Frank Juric.

Sweeper: Steve Horvat.

Wing-backs: Goran Lozanovski and Ante Moric.

Twin markers: Mark Babic and Kevin Muscat (captain).

Midfielders: Steve Corica (Ross Aloisi on stand-by), Auerlio Vidmar, Danny

Tiatto.

Strikers: Paul Agostino, Mark Viduka.

Note: See page 7 for details of ABC Radio coverage.



Paul Agostino: Superb form in training matches.



Ross Aloisi: On standby should Corica break down.

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Eddie Thomson: Australia's Olympic boss.



SOCCER NSW

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Past experience with Elite Player Programs would be an advantage.

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Required for I.T.C. and Zone Development Programs. Must be experienced Goalkeeper with at least a current Level 2-A.C.C. Coaching accreditation. The person appointed will be required to work with Elite Goalkeepers aged 12-17 years.

Written applications for the positions close Monday July 22, 1996 and should include full details of coaching and playing experience and be addressed to:-

Manager of Coaching & Development
Soccer NSW Ltd
PO BOX 6024, Blacktown Delivery Centre, NSW 2148

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SEAN (Zeljko) BABIC, Sydney United's explosively paced striker, was last week signed by Marconi.

But Marconi hope sometime this week to sign another player the moment he arrives back from his honeymoon.

He is none other than Adelaide City's playmaker, Craig Foster

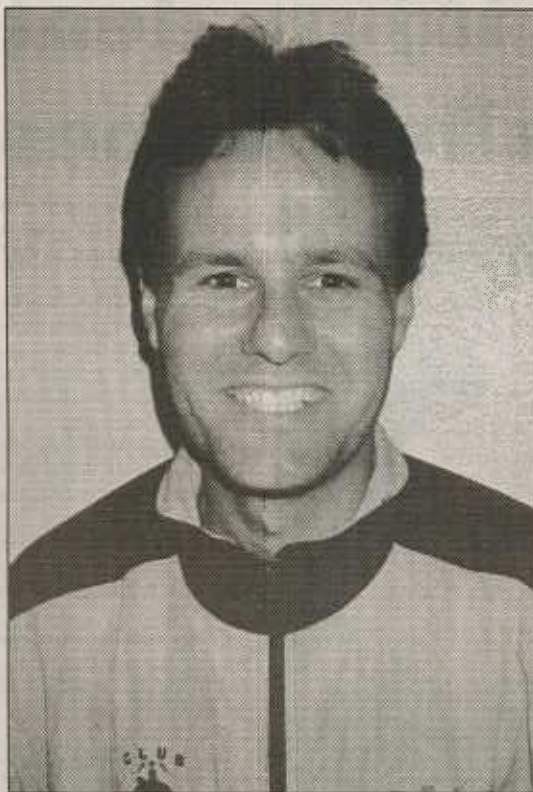
Marconi's two Ericsson Cup squads will now wear strips manufactured by Asics Tiger.

They were previously kitted out by Adidas.

JEAN PAUL DE MARIGNY, Marconi's captain, is currently in Sweden.

De Marigny is escorting the Club's Under 13 side that is competing in the Gothic Cup, a major event in the Scandinavian country.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Jean Paul de Marigny: In Sweden with Marconi's U13 team.

from there to England to join his wife Andria and their two daughters for a short holiday.

Ratcliffe originally came from Bradford in Yorkshire.

ALAN HUNTER, Brisbane Strikers' giant attacking defender, could be returning to his old club, Sydney United.

It is rumoured that the Strikers have told the big man that he is no longer wanted there.

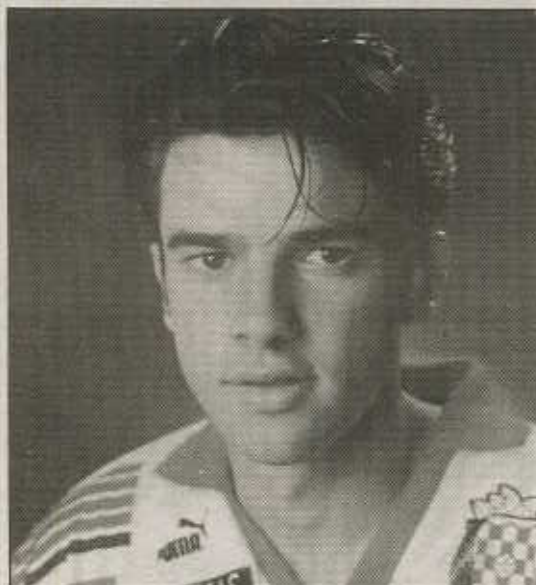
CHRIS ZORICICH, Brisbane Strikers' outstanding attacking defender, is about to leave the club.

Being in dispute over his contract from last season, it is believed that the Kiwi international defender is headed off to England.

Destination, Millwall. Millwall have been relegated to Division 2. They are the Club of former AIS Graduate, Lucas Neill.



Alan Hunter: No longer wanted by Brisbane Striker. Could be returning to Sydney.



Sean Babic: Signed by Marconi from Sydney United.

who also is being chased by United and Olympic.

VAS KALOGERACOS, former Perth Athena and Sydney Olympic midfielder-cum-striker, flew out of Western Australia last Saturday to trial with Italian giants, Sampdoria.

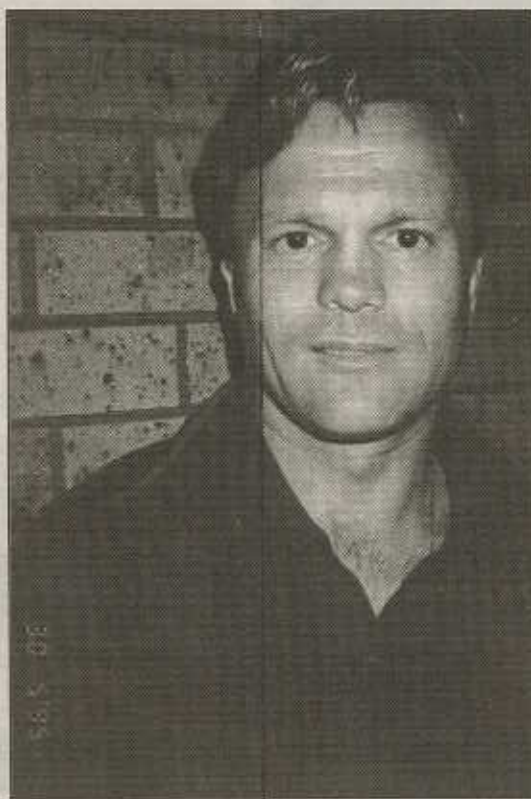
The former Australian World Youth striker who had already knocked back an offer from Perth Glory, greatly impressed

JASON KEARTON, Everton's back-up 26 year old goalkeeper is soon to leave the club.

After six years with Everton, the former Brisbane boy has played only six matches in the first team and feels it is now time to move on.

SYDNEY UNITED will fly out on Thursday for a tour of Croatia.

Coach Branko Culina



Branko Culina: Sydney United coach says he will stay be 12 more months with the club.



Chris Zoricich: Gone to England to tryout with Millwall.

BRAZIL OLYMPIANS 2 FIFA ALL STARS 1

FIFA's All Stars were defeated by the Brazil Olympic team 2-1 in New York early yesterday morning. The match at New York's Yankee Stadium, attracted a capacity crowd of 78,411.



Brazil opened the scoring in the dying moments of the first half when a through ball ricocheted off the goalkeeper, Tapai allowing World Cup striker, Bebeto to head into the empty net.

The All Stars equalised in the 67th minute when Argentina's dynamic midfielder, Redondo raided down the left. His cross into the box was spectacularly struck home by Germany's captain Klinsmann with a right foot volley.



Brazil's left midfielder, Roberto Carlos scored the winner with a goal from the acutest of angles on the left. He somehow put the ball into the far corner from right on the goal line.

Auxerre's new signing and Australian international, Ned Zelic failed to find the target in the 65th minute. This miss came from a left sided corner which he struck well over the top.



Vas Kalogeracos (right): Travelled to Italy to trial with Sampdoria.

Sampdoria in Perth when he came on as a substitute to play for the State team against them in May.

It is believed that Kalogeracos has trials also lined up at Lazio.

MARCONI's outstanding libero in the Youth team, Daniel Uccchino, won the 'Player of the Year' award last Friday night at the Club's Presentation Night.

The award was sponsored by the Scundi Brothers.

MARCONI have a new kit sponsor for the new season.

takes his squad to Croatia to play five matches.

The coach told 'Good Oil' that he will remain at United for one more season.

The Johnnie Walker Cup kicks off on September 6.

The Ericsson League is to kick off on October 13. DAVID RATCLIFFE, coach of Olympic and NSW, is currently in England.

No, he is not over there shopping for players for Olympic.

After taking his NSW squad to China last month for two matches, he flew



Daniel Uccchino (left): Being presented with his award by Mr Scundi of "Scundi Bros".



David Ratcliffe: Is in his native England enjoying a holiday with his family.

CONSORTIUM TO TAKE OVER OLYMPIC

(\$800,000 Expected to Flood into Olympic's Coffers)

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

A private consortium made up of at least nine members is expected to

takeover the entire management of Sydney Olympic for the next three years.

The Consortium, headed by a prominent Greek Sydney businessman, Harry

Kountouris, met last Sunday morning with over 120 Members at the Sydney Olympic Sporting Club in Hurlstone Park to present their intended plans.

The meeting, tagged as the

"Sydney Olympic Information Meeting," and which lasted just over two hours, left all the Members extremely optimistic.

It is believed that the Sydney Olympic Club is crippled with debts amounting to over \$400,000.

However, this figure could not be ratified by anyone at the meeting until the latest set of accounts are audited and mailed to the Members before the Annual General Meeting next week.

Mr Kountouris' Consortium will have as its chairman the high profile and former MP for the seat of Barton, Gary Punch.

The president of the 'Sydney Olympic Sporting Club', Sydney solicitor Simon Konstandinidis, also a member of the consortium, stated to ABSW last night. "We gave the Members a professional presentation last Sunday morning which went over extremely well."

"The consortium's aims will be to give the Soccer club a new and strong direction over the next three years."

"We have already banked \$200,000 in cash with a balance of some \$300,000 in the form of personal bank guarantees to come sometime

within the next week or so.

"We have organised a facilitator in Kerry Polly, a senior banker with the ANZ Bank."

"We have a Chartered Accountant in Alex Petrakis who will progressively advise us on all financial matters."

"We have employed a very well-known marketing firm which we cannot name at the moment."

"They flew on Monday to Melbourne to have meetings with some prominent Companies who already have expressed a desire to sponsor Olympic for the new season."

"We aim to raise sponsorship monies nearing the \$300,000 mark."

"Gary Punch made a vast impression on our Members last Sunday."

"We want to vigorously attack the Club's debt and swing it around from a red situation to black over the next three years."

"We want to target the previously untapped potential of our vast Youth material by affiliating it with junior organisations across the inner City and Southern areas."

"Our consortium is expected to be fully ratified at the Club's AGM to be held on July 21st."

"All our Members will be fully informed of our progress every three months."

"We expect to aggressively embark on a programmed plan to reverse and retire, as quickly as possible, the Club's monumental debt," ended Mr Konstandinidis.

Sources close to Olympic

have informed us already that they have one of Australia's largest and oldest companies lined up to sponsor Olympic over five years to the sweet tune of some \$1.5 million.

The Company, a 'blue chip' one, is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Santrac & Tobin meet the referees

West Adelaide coach Adrian Santrac was special guest speaker at the referees' Talent Acceleration Plan training last Thursday night.

In an attempt to let referees' know how coaches react to referees' decisions and attitudes, State Director of Referees' Coaching Donald Campbell invited Adrian to address his elite squad of young referees.

The evening was highly successful, with Adrian emphasising good communication skills as the

basis of good refereeing.

He entertained the squad with several impressions of over officious referees demonstrating how to really upset players and coaches by showing cards in their faces and shouting, then stressed the importance of calmly talking to the right people to gain control and respect.

Two weeks earlier, Adelaide City and Australian stalwart Alex Tobin spoke to the group about the players' reactions to referees. Like Adrian, he stressed the importance of opening up

good lines of communication with players, treating them as adults, not as schoolchildren.

He also emphasised attitude as a major factor in the way players reacted to different referees.

Both Alex and Adrian made a significant contribution towards the betterment of the game by giving up their time to help the referees. As Adrian said, we are all part of a soccer family, and should try to help each other as much as possible for the good of the game.

PENALTIES ARE THE PITS!

by Richard Kreider

The decision by FIFA to continue with the penalty shoot-out in order to find a loser, (as well as a winner) of a soccer match simply smacks of naivety and shallow mindedness by the worlds governing body.

A penalty is what it says, a punishment for committing an offence in the goal area, and should not be used to punish two teams that could not be separated through normal and extra-time.

I recently witnessed a small Under 12 carnival and although it was just your average tournament, kids at that age still think they are playing in the World Cup.

A couple of games required the shoot-out, and after looking at the fear and tears on the kids faces after they either missed their penalty, or on the goalkeepers that conceded the spot-kicks, it's clear to me that children should not have to endure that sort of pressure until they are at least in their 'teens, especially if we are to keep them playing our great game.

We need another solution that will be a 'fair play' practice — as the FIFA slogan says.

The use of the 'Golden Goal' in Euro 96 is definitely a step in the right direction.

Although Johnny Warren's idea of systematically reducing team numbers until someone scores has some merit, what if it comes down to three of four

players left?

I get this vision of the ball going nowhere with the remaining players close to exhaustion on what will then be a larger playing arena.

Perhaps if both goalkeepers were removed for the extra-time period, then that might make it more interesting.

I have another idea that has similarities in Aussie rules and Gaelic football, where you can score points even if you miss the goal. Consequently, there are very few drawn games.

My suggestion is that if a team hits the goal uprights or cross-bar, and it returns into play, then that team should earn a 0.1 of a goal. At the end of a game a team can win 1.2 — 1.1 or whatever.

If the scores are still level, then perhaps send-offs can come into the formula and award the opposition a 0.1

Unfortunately, this concept hit a brick wall when put to the Australian Soccer Federation over four years ago. And perhaps it should, but I would be very interested to hear from equally concerned football supporters, if they either support it or can enhance it even further.

It desperately needs a solution, as I firmly believe the strengths and standards of world football is becoming more and more unequal, which will ultimately result in more and more drawn games.

Note: You, the readers, are invited to add your opinions to this area of our game. Please sent to the Letters to the editor address.

Canberra have fifteen days to clear debt

BY GRAHAM COOKE
AAP

The board of embattled Canberra Cosmos has given itself until the end of the month to clear or reschedule a \$200,000 debt left over from the club's debut season in the National Soccer League.

But chairman Paul Murphy was in an upbeat mood at a supporters' meeting, saying a fightback campaign, launched by the club last month, is going well and that he expected the Cosmos to be still in the competition when the 1996-97 season begins in October.

The meeting got a sense of the depth of the problems, and the determination to deal with them, when coach and former Everton star Mike Lyons revealed he had been "hitting the pavements, going round the shops asking for sponsorship of \$100 here and \$200 there."

"The last four weeks have been my most difficult in 28 years in football," he said.

"Sometimes I come home in the evening feeling I have shrunk in size."

"But if that is what it takes ... we cannot afford to lose another generation of players by not having a national league team in Canberra."

Those were sentiments shared by the Cosmos' chief executive officer-elect, Alan Reis, who will take up the position on August 1 - assuming the club still exists.

"If I were a betting man I would put money on us still being around," he said.

"I have never been a person to attach myself to dead causes - and this isn't a dead cause."

Reis has first-hand knowledge of the frustrations of Canberra soccer.

He made his NSL debut for

the old Canberra City as a 16-year-old striker in 1978 and was approaching his peak when the club was, in his words "executed from the competition" in 1986.



Mike Lyons: Had to go out "hitting the pavements"

After that he gained experience as an administrator with the Australian Institute of Sport's road cycling program.

For the past four years he has been playing professional soccer in Hong Kong, representing the colony at the Asian Games.

"That has been a gratifying end to my playing career, but it's in the past," he said. "I'll be working as a volunteer for the Cosmos until August 1 and then my first task will be to see that we never get in a mess like this again."

"The budget will be very tight and the players will have to accept that when it comes to signing contracts."

"But in the next year or two our aim must be to get back in the black and rebuild credibility."

Perth Glory settle on home ground

BY DIGBY BEACHAM
AAP

National League newcomer Perth Glory, today secured its future with the announcement of Perth Oval as its home for at least two seasons.

The Glory, whose participation in the 1996-97 season had been uncertain because of their inability to find a suitable base, has a one-year option after two years.

Relieved director Paul Afkos expressed his delight that the West Australian Football League club East Perth had offered its Perth Oval, on the outskirts of the



city, as a temporary home for Glory.

"The East Perth Football Club has been very cooperative and they have given us a free reign during our season to train and play on the venue and use the club's facilities," Afkos said.

"It will be a good example that the two codes can co-

exist.

"We weren't even sure if we were going to play in the national league this season because we were unable to find a venue that was suitable."

Afkos' relief was understandable given that Glory's attempts to play at the Velodrome in Leederville, Perry Lakes Stadium, Parry Field or Subiaco Oval were all rejected.

The Glory, who will invest \$300,000 for seating on the eastern side of Perth Oval, hope the three years spent at Perth Oval will be enough time for the Club to secure an established base.

Good Luck wish to Australia's Olyroos

The Atlanta Olympic Soccer Tournament kicks off on Saturday in Florida, Sunday morning in Australia.

Your good wishes can be sent to Florida by facsimile as follows:

0011 1 954 384 1416



Atlanta 1996

Australia's first game is against France followed by Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to the 23rd.

The final group game, with Spain the opponents, take place from 9am Thursday 25.

A Review of the Olympic Games Football Tournament

The checkered history by
Henry Wizgier



GOLD MEDALLISTS

1900	*GREAT BRITAIN 4 France 0	Paris
1904	*CANADA bt USA	St. Luis
1908	GREAT BRITAIN 2 Denmark 0	London
1912	GREAT BRITAIN 4 Denmark 2	Stockholm
1920	BELGIUM 2 Czechoslovakia 0	Antwerp
1924	URUGUAY 3 Switzerland 0	Paris
1928	URUGUAY 2 Argentina 1	Amsterdam
1932	No Football Tournament held.	Los Angeles
1936	ITALY 2 Austria 1	Berlin
1948	SWEDEN 3 Yugoslavia 1	London
1952	HUNGARY 2 Yugoslavia 0	Helsinki
1956	SOVIET UNION 1 Yugoslavia 0	Melb
1960	YUGOSLAVIA 3 Denmark 1	Rome
1964	HUNGARY 2 Czechoslovakia 1	Tokyo
1968	HUNGARY 4 Bulgaria 1	Mexico
1972	POLAND 2 Hungary 1	Munich
1976	EAST GERMANY 3 Poland 1	Montreal
1980	CZECH 1 East Germany 0	Moscow
1984	FRANCE 2 Brazil 0	Los Angeles
1988	SOVIET UNION 2 Brazil 1	Seoul
1992	SPAIN 3 Poland 2	Barcelona

* Unofficial tournaments.

The Olympic football tournament has developed in many stages. It was not played in the very first modern Olympiad - exactly 100 years ago, but has been a regular feature since the second Games in Paris, in 1900.

However, you have to be a bit wary how you read these early 'tournaments', because some of them were no more than exhibition games, featuring representative sides.

1896 - ATHENS No football.

1900 - PARIS The records show a gold medal win for Great Britain but in actual reality the team that won it were an English club side called 'Upton Park'. (The Micky Brock historical archives confirm that they were nothing to do with Wet Ham Utd).

In a one-off 'exhibition game' Upton Park defeated a French team called, Union Francaise des Sports Athletique by 4-0.

1904 - ST. LOUIS Our recent Olympic Qualifier victims Canada won the second ever gold medal but, it was another 'un-official' competition involving one Canadian and two American college teams.

Galt of Canada came out on top with two 4-0 victories over Christian Brothers College and Sainte Rose.

It's a pity the 'Olyroos' didn't qualify for this one!

1908 - LONDON The first real football competition and hosts Great Britain the inventors and masters of the game, beat Denmark 2-0 in the Final at the 'brand new' White City stadium which stood next door to QPR's ground in Shepherd's Bush.

The participants were only amateur teams.

1912 - STOCKHOLM Eleven countries took part in the football and the final produced a replay of the previous tournee with Great Britain again beating the Danes, 4-2 this time.

1920 - ANTWERP There was an 8-year gap between Olympics due to the First World War and the soccer Final in this one produced a real sensation.

After 40 minutes the hosts Belgium were leading Czechoslovakia 2-0, when their opponents became so incensed by the refereeing - that they walked off and forfeited the game.

1924 - PARIS Produced a milestone - the first of many international competitions to be won by a South American team and like in almost every one of them - the first winner came from tiny Uruguay.

Europe got it's first taste of the dazzling Latin American skills as Uruguay hammered the more-fancied Switzerland 3-0.

1928 - AMSTERDAM Uruguay repeated their win and served notice on the world for the forthcoming inaugural World Cup in two years time, which they were hosting and which of course, they duly won.

The Olympic Final was in fact a foretaste of that first World Cup Final where their victims were in both cases neighbours and great rivals, Argentina.

It took two matches to do it however, as the first game ended 1-1, in the days before penalty shoot-outs.

1932 - LOS ANGELES No football tournament.

1936 - BERLIN The notorious 'Hitler Games' where the 'master-race' failed to deliver the goods in a few sports, including football.

At least it was won by fellow 'fascists' Italy, who included a few 'so-called' amateurs who played in their World Cup winning team two years previously.

They beat Austria 2-1

1948 - LONDON Another gap due to 'War', this time 12 years.

This was to be the last Olympic tournament for 36 years to be won by a 'non-communist' nation - Sweden beat Yugoslavia at Wembley in front of over 60,000

1952 - HELSINKI The start of the shameful Eastern European 'shameatourism' era in football.

For those not acquainted with the facts, the communist-ruled countries of the 'Soviet Bloc' insisted that their players were all 'amateurs', because they were officially registered as soldiers, policemen and candlestickmakers etc.

The rest of the world had to field 'real' amateur teams so what chance did they stand?

The Helsinki gold-medallists 'Puskas's' Hungary were virtually the same 'amateur' team that went on to wipe the floor 6-3 and 7-1

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

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AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
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The World Game and its players

BY ROY HAY in ENGLAND

All good things must come to an end, even trips to Europe, and in a week's time I will be on my way back to Australia.

A recent research report by a colleague at De Montfort University, Pierre Lanfranchi, shows that an increasing number of young Australian soccer players are making a move in the opposite direction.

He has studied the number of foreign players taking part in the major leagues in Europe and the report confirms that since 1966-67 the foreign registered players in six of the top competitions (England, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Spain) have increased from 156 to 726.

In 1966-67 there was only one Australian among them, compared with 26 in 1994-5. In England the number has gone up from one to fourteen though I suspect that there a couple of names which Lanfranchi has not picked up.

This data applies only to the top league in each country and the next one down, so players with lower division clubs will not be included.

As Lanfranchi says "European leagues now have the best players in the world. Australians and Americans are travelling to Europe rather than vice versa, and many of the South Africans who won the African Nations Cup had gained their experience in England, Belgium, Italy and Greece." He goes on,

More top players are likely to spend the greater part of their careers outside their home country. More top teams are likely to become composed of foreign-registered players.

The Bosman case frees up the market in footballers. It's main effect may be as much

in the lifting of restrictions on numbers of foreign registered players allowed in each team as in the curb on transfer fees."

The implications for young Australians are quite profound. The opportunities at the top level may not necessarily increase, for now Australians will be competing with talent from all round the world.

The advantage which flowed from the relative cheapness of Australian players will possibly be diminished by the removal of transfer fees for out-of-contract players.

On the other hand, more young Australians may take an intermediate route like the Croatian-Australians who have signed for clubs in their parents' homeland, with the clear intention of using that as a stepping stone to the top leagues.

Croatia is one of the major exporting countries with 27 players in the top leagues in 1994-95 and several more joining this year following the European Championship.

Croatia is certainly a great shop window for talent, though it means that players have to sign for clubs like Croatia Zagreb or Hajduk Split which will be taking part in the European Champions League, the Cup Winners Cup or the UEFA Cup.

For Australians, even those with international caps, the chances of making a direct jump to the top leagues may be more difficult in future, but an apprenticeship in another European country opens up opportunities, provided the young players are prepared to learn languages and adapt to European conditions.

If anyone doubted that football is the world Game, the movement of players in recent years confirms its attraction to them as well as to spectators.

1976 - MONTREAL East Germany never made the impact in football that their athletes did on the track or their swimmers, in the pool.

The now defunct country won their only major honour in football beating the holders Poland 3-1 in the Final. (Though Magdeburg won the Cup Winners Cup in 74 beating - AC Milan! Not bad for amateurs!)

1980 - MOSCOW Thankfully, this was to be the last chapter of Eastern European 'shameatour' stranglehold over the Olympics football tournament, as Czechoslovakia beat the holder East Germany 1-0.

By boycotting the next Olympics, the Communist-bloc countries opened the door for a new interpretation of the 'amateur' status of footballers.

1984 - LOS ANGELES 101,799 filled the Rose Bowl in Pasadena to watch the Olympic Final which completed a memorable year for French football, as their Olympic XI beat Brazil 2-0.

Platini's brilliant first XI had won the European Championship earlier.

1988 - SEOUL Australia's second showing in the Olympics Finals and a great improvement on Melbourne 56.

Excellent wins over Yugoslavia and Nigeria were somewhat dampened by the eventual finalists, Romario-led Brazil and winners USSR.

Nothing to be ashamed of.

1992 - BARCELONA Australia's third and best-forgotten Finals, all because of one disastrous performance - against Poland.

It was perhaps small consolation that the Poles were only narrowly beaten 3-2 in the Final by the hosts Spain, in front of a volatile, 100,000 crowd at the Nou Camp.

IT'S ATMOSPHERE - NOT HOOLIGANISM!

Dear Sir,
After reading the letter from Samuel Sirras (9.7.96) and keeping informed on current issues, I felt a strong need to write in to your great newspaper (I purchase it every week without fail).

I am a FEMALE supporter of the Melbourne Knights and football across the globe in general (we are not as rare as you think). I happen to believe that our supporters add a certain atmosphere to the game as do the South Melbourne supporters.

We enjoy our traditional rivalry down here in Melbourne. There is nothing more exciting than a derby between our two clubs. I'm terribly sorry that Mr Sirras feels the need to lash out at our club because we are such a lively and colourful group and because the same excitement appears to be lacking in NSW.

As for the ridiculously excessive bond the Knights were placed on for the pitch invasion during the grand final, I am most unimpressed. I was one of the supporter who ran onto the pitch and was lucky enough to shake hands with the premier, Mr Kennett.

He was most amused by our jubilation at winning and was overjoyed by the fact that once again, a Victorian-based sporting team has upstaged everyone. How is it that the supporters in Brisbane were allowed to invade the pitch

and get autographs following every home match, but were not placed on a bond?

Could it be because they are a "true Australian" team and the Knights are not?

Other countries in the world permit supporters to invade the pitch and even purchase flares at the gates. This is to create atmosphere!

Mr Hill, in his attempt to improve this great game of ours, has managed to alienate most of its genuine supporters.

If he really thinks that Aussie rules fans are suddenly going to drop their beloved sport to embrace ours, then he is a bigger fool than I first mistook him for!

If Mr Hill continues on his merry way to destruction, then in 2 to 3 years there will be nothing left of true football in this country. Only then will he come back to clubs like the Knights and Marconi and beg them to rejoin the non-existent league.

I think I have said enough already without incurring a \$5000 fine.

On a more lighter note, I would like to thank SBS for their marvellous coverage of Euro 96. My congratulations to the victors, Germany, as they truly are the powerhouse in European football.

Well, until Croatia prove otherwise! I would also like to wish the Olyroos the best of luck in their conquest of Atlanta.

Matija Raspudic,
Avondale Heights, Vic.

Carlton, up the stakes

Dear Sir,
I love it when a challenge is issued arrogantly whether it be verbal or non verbal. We saw this week an article in the "Herald Sun" Melbourne, written by Peter Desira flaunting Carlton Soccer Club strategy and financial clout in the lead up to its entry into the National League in 1997/98 season.

It talked of a commitment of \$2 million, the recruiting of players of the calibre of Socceroo and West Ham midfielder Robbie Slater, Mark Hateley - ex AC Milan and England international striker, Socceroo greats Eddie Krncevic, Alan Davidson and Frank Arok vying for the coaching position, the use of the impressively upgraded Optus Oval, the expectation of drawing at least 10,000 spectators per game and the unveiling of an aggressive marketing campaign.

I love it! The media release had an overbearing, presumptuous feel to it. It was saying "get out of our way you no hoppers, let Carlton show you how to do it."

Whether the traditionalists and sceptics like it or not, with the advent of the Carlton entry also comes the lifting of the measuring stick for success.

The stakes are suddenly higher and standards of professionalism will now be in the elite category.

Some of you out there

may be saying - Carlos this thing is doom to fail - and it may well, even though I think not, but this is not the point. The point is that already the up coming entry has forced intelligent soccer people involved in clubs going nowhere to take a step back and discover that they must change and improve to compete.

Peter Balassone, the President of the beleaguered Thomastown Zebras, stated this week that this club must amalgamate with 2 or 3 clubs and work hard for 3 years before it could compete with such a force.

Yes, a very intelligent man who has the foresight to see what is going to happen in the future.

Carlton don't enter the competition for another 12 months plus, but this is only one example of the effect it has had on the soccer fraternity.

It will shake up stagnant clubs and if it doesn't they will die.

To the Peter Balassone's out there, take up the challenge, meet Carlton head on. It really is "Sink or Swim" time for clubs.

For supporters like me, its the competitiveness and professionalism existing in the game overseas suddenly in my backyard - it can only be good for soccer - I love it!

Carlos Alberto Diego,
The 4 Diego's Soccer
Show
97.4 FM 3WRB
Melbourne



Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament



GROUP MATCHES

FIXTURES

ABC RADIO

MEN'S

Saturday July 20

PORTUGAL v TUNISIA
USA v ARGENTINA
SPAIN v SAUDI ARABIA
AUSTRALIA v FRANCE

Group A Washington
Group A Birmingham
Group B Orlando
Group B Miami

Sunday July 21

GHANA v SOUTH KOREA
ITALY v MEXICO
BRAZIL v JAPAN
HUNGARY v NIGERIA

Group C Washington
Group C Birmingham
Group D Miami
Group D Orlando

Monday July 22

USA v TUNISIA
ARGENTINA v PORTUGAL
SPAIN v FRANCE
AUSTRALIA v SAUDI ARABIA

Group A Birmingham
Group A Washington
Group B Orlando
Group B Miami

Tuesday July 23

GHANA v ITALY
SOUTH KOREA v MEXICO
BRAZIL v HUNGARY
JAPAN v NIGERIA

Group C Washington
Group C Birmingham
Group D Miami
Group D Orlando

Wednesday July 24

USA v PORTUGAL
ARGENTINA v TUNISIA
FRANCE v SAUDI ARABIA
AUSTRALIA v SPAIN

Group A Washington
Group A Birmingham
Group B Miami
Group B Orlando

ABC Radio Metropolitan stations will cover the matches involving Australia.

They can be received on the following frequencies:

SYDNEY 2BL 702
MELBOURNE 3LO 774
BRISBANE 4QR 612
ADELAIDE 5AN 891
PERTH 6WF 720
HOBART 7ZR 936

AUSTRALIA'S MATCHES

Sunday July 21 v FRANCE 08.30 (Sydney time)

Tuesday July 23 v SAUDI ARABIA 09.00 (Sydney)

Thursday July 25 v SPAIN 09.00 (Sydney)

ABC Regional Stations and 'Radio Australia' (for overseas listeners) will also broadcast these games.

ABC Web Site will provide up-to-the-minute information at:
[HTTP://WWW.ABC.NET.AU/OLYMPICS/](http://www.abc.net.au/olympics/)

An ABC Olympics Guide is available from all newsagents and ABC shops.

This is also on the Web site.

As the tournament progresses, ABSW will update this information.

WOMEN'S

GROUP E

USA
DENMARK
SWEDEN
CHINA

Sunday July 21

GERMANY v JAPAN
NORWAY v BRAZIL
USA v DENMARK
SWEDEN v CHINA

Tuesday July 23

BRAZIL v JAPAN
USA v SWEDEN
DENMARK v CHINA
NORWAY v GERMANY

Sunday July 25

NORWAY v JAPAN
BRAZIL v GERMANY
USA v CHINA
DENMARK v SWEDEN

GROUP F

NORWAY
BRAZIL
GERMANY
JAPAN

Birmingham
Washington DC
Orlando
Miami

Birmingham
Orlando
Miami
Washington DC

Washington DC
Birmingham
Miami
Orlando

FINALS — All games at Athens, Georgia.

Sunday July 28

Semi Final #1
Winner of Group E v 2nd place Group F

Semi Final #2
Winner of Group F v 2nd place Group E

Thursday August 1

Bronze Medal Play-off
Loser semi-final #1 v Loser semi-final #2

FINAL

Winner semi-final #1 v Winner semi-final #2

Players losing two kilos a session

BY PAUL MILLER OF AAP

Australia's Olympic soccer squad is giving it everything in training in the energy sapping Florida heat to earn a starting berth in the opening game against France.

Coach Eddie Thomson said the players were refusing to yield in the stinging sun and were training with such an intensity they were shedding 2kg each session.

The Olyroos are training twice a day in the lead-up to their group opener at Miami's Orange Bowl on July 20.

"We've had to keep up their fluid intake as they've been losing on average two kilos and Danny Tiatto, who never stops, has shed three kilos," Thomson said.

Mark Viduka, Joe Spiteri, Kevin Muscat, Ross Aloisi and Luke Casserly have all been impressive but Thomson paid special tribute to late squad inclusion Steve Corica.

He said he had been making up for lost time in the Olyroo camp and was inspirational at training.

Thomson said Corica had surprised everybody because he was expected to be lacking in sharpness after weeks without a competitive game.

"But he's been on the boil and is fitting in really well," said Thomson.

"It was a blow to lose Zelic but Corica is playing out of his skin.

"He could in fact be a better option than Zelic as he will add balance to the side."

Thomson said he had originally nominated the Wolverhampton Wanderers attacking midfielder in the squad, but had been forced to omit him because of FIFA regulations.

Football's ruling body originally dictated that footballers who had already played in previous Olympics would not be eligible to compete in another unless as an over-23 player.

But the authority changed that ruling.

As Corica had played in Barcelona he was also excluded from representing the Olyroos in their qualifying games, even though he was under 23.

But FIFA overturned its earlier ruling at the last minute allowing Thomson to recruit the striker.

The Olyroos will play against the best local side in Miami on Thursday and hope to play Japan and Mexico over the weekend.

Thomson said Steve Horvat was over an ankle complaint and Peter Tsenkis was receiving treatment for a similar injury, but both would recover quickly.

The coach also played down any animosity with Zelic over the withdrawal. "I can understand his point of view. I felt he could have told me earlier, but he's just signed a three-year contract and he would have been put under extreme pressure by his club," Thomson said.

"It was the same in the past with Mark Bosnich and Aston Villa, they get bullied, they are young players fighting for their future, I can understand that."

Thomson said it would be a crime to drop players from national teams just because they were trying to secure a future in the game.



Steve Horvat: Fully fit and rarin' to go.

DENMARK A SOLID OUTFIT

Denmark, the third of the Nordic nations to qualify for the Women's Olympic football, has a solid background on the world scene, their National team first competing in 1974.

The Danes finished seventh in the 1991 World Cup and won their European group to qualify for last year's event. After the infamous 5-0 rout over Australia in the opening match, they advanced to the quarter-finals as the seventh placed team but were drawn against old rivals and eventual Champions Norway, and went down 3-1.

During 1996 the team has trained together weekly and produced some promising results in competition.

The Olympic sixteen includes just one new player from the team that contested the World Cup, plus the significant return from injury of veteran defender Bonny Madsen.

Denmark will find the going tough to be in the running for a medal, but are more than capable of causing an upset result over its more favoured opponents.

DORTHE LARSEN
HELLE BJERREGAARD
BONNY MADSEN
KAMMA FLAENG
LENE TERP
RIKKE HOLM
LISBET KOLDING
CHRISTINA PEDERSEN
ANNETTE LAURSEN
ANNE NIELSEN
HELLE JENSEN
BIRGIT CHRISTENSEN
GITTE KROGH
LENE MADSEN
MERETE PEDERSEN
CHRISTINA BONDE
COACH: KELD GANTZHOKN

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Zabica saves WA in shoot-out

The Western Australian state team continued on its winning ways with an enthralling victory over Indonesia at Dorrien Gardens last Wednesday evening.

After the scores were locked at 2-2 in normal time, the West put away three penalties to the visitors one to win a challenge match that was watched by not only 1,000 at the

ground, but also close to 70 million who viewed it live on Indonesian TV.

The only other time WA used penalties to win a home match, was last year when they defeated English side West Ham United at the WACA. They maintained their good form by beating Nottingham Forest a few weeks later.

Ross Greer made a welcome return to the squad

after a five year term in Hong Kong, by opening the scoring in sensational style with a fifth minute 30 metre bullet that gave Sumardi no chance.

The pacey and creative visitors, who were making their first visit to Perth, drew level just after half an hour's play when Putra burst through the WA rearguard and lobbed accurately over state skipper Robbie Zabica.

The West regained the lead in the 56th minute following some clever work from Greer and fellow midfielder Paul McVittie, who set up debutant Allan Mackenzie to drill home a another long range strike.

Indonesia were given a gift second goal seven minutes later when Kurniawan, who is believed to have signed a contract with Italian Serie A side Sampdoria after Indonesia beat them 2-1 last month, pounced on a Scott Clissold back-pass, and rounded

Zabica to coolly slip the ball home.

But Zabica had the final say on the night with two superb saves to deny Hussaini and Sandria in the penalty shoot-out after the game finished even.

WA: Robbie Zabica, Craig Moodie, Scott Clissold, Rene de Koning, Ross Greer, Scott Miller, Paul McVittie, Steve Bourne, Peter Coci, Alan Mackenzie, Willie Herd.

Subs: Ray Kastropil, Doug Ithier, Scot Daly, Tom Maras.

INDONESIA: Sumardi, Kurnia Sandi, Suwandi HS, Yeyen Tumena, Aples G Tecuari, Robby Darwis, Widodo C Putra, Pery Sandria, Supriono, Kurniawan, Eri Irianto.

Subs: Fachi Husaini, Charil Anwar, Nur'alim.

REFEREE: Andy Gorton.

LINESMEN: Keith Davies, Frank Moretti.

ATTENDANCE: 1000.

Glory to share Perth Oval

It's been a frustrating time for Perth Glory connections in their endeavours to find a ground, but they can stop worrying for the time being for they have been made welcome at Perth Oval the home of Australian Rules WAFL club East Perth.

Perth Glory Pty Ltd, the licence holder of Perth's first team to enter the National League, signed a two year agreement with East Perth Football Club at a press conference last Thursday with an option on a further year if required.

The deal was endorsed by the Town of Vincent who were initially trying to get the Glory into the Lake Monger Velodrome which is ideally situated and ready for much needed renovations that could have included upgrading the venue to National League standards.

But nearby resident put up a successful protest, forcing the Glory to look elsewhere like Parry Field, former home to Baseball side Perth Heat.

"We have been kicked from Council to Council, and at one stage it looked like the license would be revoked", said Glory director Paul Afkos. "The acceptance by Perth Glory to use Perth Oval is optional, but we will look forward to working very closely with East Perth who have assured us there will be no over-lap of the seasons."

The Glory have agreed to upgrade the Oval

from their own resources, to the tune of \$300,000, especially the seating. With the ground having been home to the Australian code for over 90 years, the old bench style seating in the main 1000 seat stand will now be replaced by individual bucket seats.

The soccer body will also be installing a temporary stand on the opposite side, on the oval itself to boost the total seating numbers to around 7000, with the bottom row situated only 3 or 4 metres away from the pitch.

Some of the costs will also be used to improve the pitch itself which Glory General manager Roger Lefort says will eventually rival Wembley.

"I didn't think I had a job three weeks ago," said coach Gary Marochi. "But now, things are finally looking very positive."

The players plan to have their first training session on August 7, in preparation for their history making inaugural Ericsson Cup fixture against UTS Olympic in the second week of October.

Because the ground is devoid of any floodlighting, the kick-off time has been set for 5pm, although this may have to be reviewed since sunset is less than ninety minutes later at that time of the year.

(Continued from last week)

KNIGHTS DROWN THE LIONS

Western Knights pulled off one of the shock results of the season at Macedonia Park last Saturday, where they dumped defending champions Stirling Macedonia 5-2 in a controversial match which contained three penalties and as many send-offs.

It was the heaviest defeat for the Stirling club since 1992, when they were whipped 6-2 by Perth Italia.

The Knights couldn't have wished for a better start, when Trim Morgan ended a superb solo run by driving the ball into the back of the net from the edge of the box.

Macedonia equalised in the 24th minute when a low right side centre sailed across the face of the Knights goal and out of the reach of everyone except Rob Milevski who slid the ball home at the far post.

After Gary Whyatt made a stunning save at the boot-laces of Morgan in the 42nd minute, the lethal forward was given his marching orders just seconds before the break following a tackle on Scott Clissold that might have got nothing more than a yellow card on another day.

The ejection did not go down too well with some of the Knights officials, one was in fact seen throwing a water bottle at the referee and linesman Mal Langton, the latter being on the receiving end of a mini-soaking.

In the 65th minute, Stirling defender Tom Farrell gave the visitors the lead with a classic own goal, when team-mate Craig Moodie initially got himself in trouble.

Farrell relieved Moodie of the ball and intended on giving it to his 'keeper, but instead sent it sailing over Whyatt and into the net.

The home side drew level once more six minutes later when Andy Wright was rewarded with a rare dash on an opponents goal.

But the Knights then saw the game tilt permanently in their favour after Farrell was sent off after conceding two penalties during the following five minutes.

The first was in the 73rd minute when Farrell pushed Ray Kastropil in the area.

Kastropil was untroubled with the conversion. The second came three minutes further on, when he brought down substitute Ivica Markovic, who also took and put away the spot-kick. Things went from bad to disastrous for Macedonia in the 82nd minute when they were reduced to nine men after Moodie picked up a second yellow card.

It became 5-2 in the 89th minute with another Markovic penalty after he was brought down by Whyatt.

At the post-match interview, Macedonia coach Stuart Kamasz expressed his disappointment with both the officials and his players, the latter Kamasz declared as being devoid of discipline.

The game was also watched by the General Manager of the National League Stefan Kamasz (Stuart's brother).

The three main contenders for the inaugural season, are Claremont, Perth and Lathlain

Ovals.

All three have been endorsed by the Soccer Australia officials, the successful venue will be announced shortly, well in time for the opening October fixture against UTS Olympic.

DRAW DROPS PERTH FROM TOP-4

Perth slipped back into fifth position in the league standings following a 2-2 draw with Sorrento at Dorrien Gardens.

The first half left a lot to be desired, save for the 41st minute goal from Neil Blunt who headed a Ryan Jeans centre past Vince Matassa who was making a welcome return to WA soccer.

Perth equalised in the 51st minute when John Costa and Ray Marinovic combined to set up Peter Coci for his eighth goal of the season.

Fifteen minutes later, it was Perth's turn to take the lead when Marinovic combined in churning down a cross and driving the ball home in the same movement.

But the Gulls forced the points to be shared with a 70th minute equaliser from Blunt who finished off some good build-up play from Steve Love.

Sorrento set up a frantic finish five minutes from time when they had Jamie Harnwell shown a red card by referee Louis Prospero for a second bookable offence.

In the Sunday game, Bayswater Panthers returned to the head of the ladder albeit on goal difference, following a 2-2 draw with Floreat Athena that was witnessed by a healthy crowd at Bayswater Oval.

The visitors took the lead after 14 minutes through Taki Tzoganos, who rifled a John Carbone centre home from 18 metres.

It was the Premier Division's 200th league goal of the season.

The Panthers returned on level terms six minutes later when a loose ball enabled Robert Perruzza to set up Jason Van Rooy to score at the far post.

The league challengers took the lead in sensational fashion after 33 minutes when a deep 40 metre cross from left-back Paul Dimmock suddenly ended up in the net when goalkeeper John Xigas stumbled just as he was about to claim it.

But the 1994 goalkeeper of the year redeemed himself adequately two minutes further on when he made a great save to deny Ross Greer.

It was Floreat's turn to equalise in the 76th minute when Vas Kalogeracos put away a penalty after substitute Shaun Fuhr handballed in the area.

In the 80th minute, Bayswater came close to clinching full points with a snap-shot from Dimmock, but Xigas was equal to it with another brilliant stop.

The game finished on a sour note when Floreat utility Sean Lynch was sent off for arguing, which made the final tally for the weekend a sorry seven red cards.

PREMIER LEAGUE			
Swan IC	0	Stirling Macedonia	3
Sorrento	0	Inglewood Falcons	3
Western Knights	0	Bayswater Panthers	3
Spearwood Dal	1	Perth SC	0
Floreat Athena	2	Olympic Kingsway	1

RESERVES			
Swan IC	0	Stirling Macedonia	3
Sorrento	4	Inglewood Falcons	0
Western Knights	0	Bayswater Panthers	4
Spearwood Dal	2	Perth SC	1
Floreat Athena	1	Olympic Kingsway	3

UNDER 18			
Swan IC	5	Stirling Macedonia	0
Sorrento	7	Inglewood Falcons	0
Western Knights	1	Bayswater Panthers	0
Spearwood Dal	1	Perth SC	2
Floreat Athena	1	Olympic Kingsway	2

DIVISION ONE			
Joondalup City	1	Bassendean Cale	0
Dianella WE	4	Fremantle City	2
Balcatta	1	Southside United	2
Cockburn United	1	Southside United	2
Cockburn United	1	Morley Windmills	5
North Lakes	0	Perth City	5
Ashfield/Bunbury	3	Rockingham City	4

DIVISION TWO			
Armidale Park	1	University	2
East Perth Vardar	1	Wanneroo	2
Melville Corinthians	1	Queens Park	0
Western Yugal	1	Balga	3

PREMIER DIVISION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Bayswater	13	10	1	2	34	10	31		
Stirling	13	10	1	2	28	14	31		
Inglewood	13	9	2	2	25	14	29		
Spearwood	13	9	0	4	24	19	27		
Perth SC	13	7	2	4	25	18	23		
Floreat	13	4	5	4	23	24	17		
Sorrento	13	3	2	8	15	21	11		
Western K	13	2	2	9	16	25	8		

LEADING SCORERS

19	Robbie Perruzza	Bayswater
8	Peter Coci	Perth
8	Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat
8	Peter Murphy	Stirling
7	Neil Blunt	Sorrento
7	Rob Milevski	Stirling
7	Eugen Singeorzan	W/Knights
7	Dale Wingell	Perth
6	Norrie Sutton	Inglewood
6	Tristram Morgan	Knights



Robert Zabica: Saved two penalty shots to give WA victory.



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

Lions have one paw on trophy

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Lions placed one hand on the Fourx League premiership trophy, courtesy of a hard fought 2-1 win over Coalstars and a costly slip up from arch rivals Brisbane City at the weekend.

With just four games remaining for both sides, Brisbane Lions shot three points clear at the top and hold the advantage of a superior goal difference after fifth-placed Beenleigh sprang the surprise of the round by upsetting Brisbane City 2-1 at home.

While a superb first half strike from Frank Mengotti and Cliff Tuck's second half winner enabled Brisbane



Wednesday night while Beenleigh confront Grange Thistle next Saturday.

Wynnum's point gained off Rochedale after a 2-2 draw at Perry Park on Sunday may prove highly valuable as the baysiders have just two matches remaining against the inconsistent Pine Rivers and Nerang.

Taringa, with 30 points, remain in sixth place just four points adrift of fourth placed Wynnum, but can narrow the gap if they topple Rochedale midweek while Beenleigh separate the pair on 32 points. Beenleigh play their catch up game against Grange Thistle next weekend and should pick up the points after Grange were thrashed 5-0 by Easts in the first of the Perry Park double on Sunday.

Wynnum showed tremendous spirit to fight back after trailing 1-0 at half time after Rochedale striker Andy

Lees gave his side an early lead on 14 minutes side footing past Wynnum keeper Kevin Tatton.

Lees almost made it a double six minutes later when a set-move from a free kick taken by Keiran Cooper almost paid off as Cooper chipped to Lees who ran around the defensive wall but was off balance with his attempted strike.

Wynnum striker Geoff Maltby gave his side some hope midway through the opening half, latching onto a Ben Wood pass, but lofted his shot over the crossbar.

Wynnum, who sensed a loss would place their semi final position at risk, took the initiative after the break and drew level on 53 minutes

curling his shot wide of the far upright.

Maltby found himself unmarked in the box just one minute later, but his header off a Mal Van Basten cross was directed wide of the post.

Rochedale eventually buckled against the Wynnum onslaught when Wood received the ball in centre field and with plenty of time put Scottish import Jamie MacPherson through a gap who rifled a lethal left foot drive into the net from the edge of the box.

With twenty minutes remaining Rochedale's coach Kim Wishart made two telling substitutions which brought much needed spice into Rochedale's game with midfielder Darren Hillier and Brad Russell coming on.

The substitutions, however, had no immediate bearing on Rochedale's equaliser which came five minutes after the change when Andy Lees fired in a pin-point cross from the right to Cooper, who floated his header past a stunned Tatton in the Wynnum goal.



Lions to skip clear at the top of the table, the fifth spot battle became further congested following Beenleigh and Taringa victories and a valuable point from Wynnum against Rochedale Rovers.

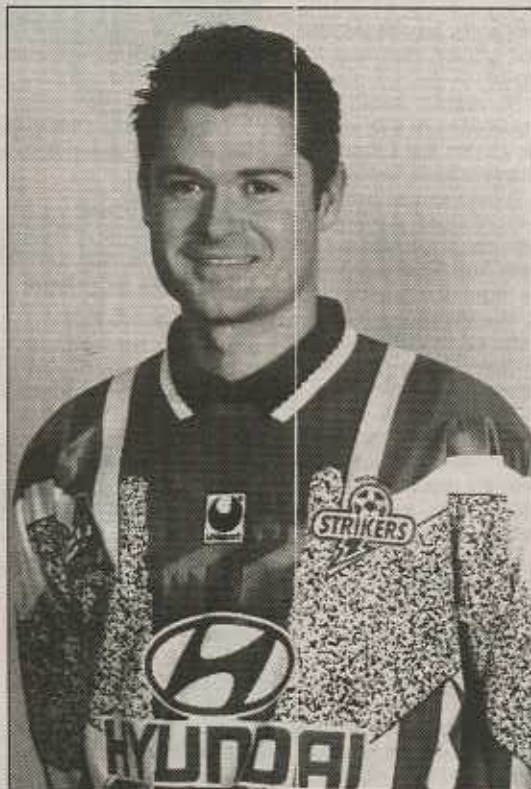
Catch up matches this week will play a vital role in the make-up of the top five with Taringa, who downed Pine Rivers 2-0, set to lock horns with Rochedale on



from a free kick hit powerfully by midfielder Paul Wilkins.

Wilkins had no margin for error as he hit his left foot shot down low which found an opening between the wall and the inside of the post.

Wynnum's midfield playmaker Billy McDermott began to weave his magic and could have given his side the lead four minutes later when he worked into the box before



Graham Ross: Strikers reserve keeper.

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Wednesday, July 17 (Round 18 Deferred Matches)

Rochedale Rovers	v	Taringa Rovers	Underwood Park	7.30pm
Coalstars	v	Brisbane City	Eric Evans Reserve	7.30pm

(Round 15 Deferred Match)

Brisbane Lions	v	Eastern Suburbs	Lions Stadium	7.30pm
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Saturday, July 20 (Round 15 Deferred Match)

Beenleigh	v	Grange Thistle	Chris Green Park	7.00pm
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Sunday, July 21

Coalstars	v	Rochedale Rovers	Eric Evans Reserve	2.45pm
Nerang	v	Brisbane Lions	Glennon Park	2.45pm
Brisbane City	v	North Star	Spencer Park	2.45pm

Wednesday, July 24

Pine Rivers	v	Nerang	Wendy Allison Park	8.00pm
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QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Beenleigh2	Brisbane City1
Grange Thistle0	Eastern Suburbs5
Rochedale Rovers	.....2	Wynnum District	.....2
Nerang Soccer Club	.....2	North Star	.....1
Pine Rivers United	.....0	Taringa Rovers	.....2
Coalstars	.....1	Brisbane Lions	.....2

TABLE

Brisbane Lions	18	14	1	3	46	20	43
Brisbane City	18	13	1	4	39	18	40
Rochedale Rovers	18	11	4	3	52	21	37
Wynnum District	20	10	4	66	37	29	34
Beenleigh	19	10	2	7	23	25	32
Taringa Rovers	19	9	3	7	48	31	30
Nerang Soccer Club	18	7	3	8	34	37	24
Pine Rivers United	19	7	1	11	33	42	22
Grange Thistle	19	6	3	10	22	54	21
Coalstars	18	6	2	10	27	30	20
Eastern Suburbs	19	4	3	12	24	39	15
North Star	19	1	1	17	15	64	4

DIVISION TWO

Capalaba Soccer & Rec1	Willowburn	.....2
Olympic United	The Gap	.....2
Mount Gravatt	Inala City United	.....1
St Albans	Logan City Kings	.....0
Rocklea United	Ipswich St Helens Utd1	.....3
Acacia Ridge	Albany Creek Exc	.....3

TABLE

Olympic United	20	14	4	2	56	28	46
Rocklea United	19	13	3	3	48	22	42
St Albans	19	10	3	6	23	32	33
Mount Gravatt	20	8	7	5	42	34	31
Inala City United	16	6	1	6	39	40	28
Albany Creek Exc	19	7	5	7	39	46	26
Acacia Ridge	18	6	7	8	32	34	22
The Gap	19	6	4	9	27	38	22
Capalaba S & Rec	20	4	8	8	39	45	20
Logan City Kings	19	5	4	10	31	32	19
Willowburn	18	4	5	9	21	34	17
Ipswich St Helens Utd	20	4	2	14	18	50	14

DIVISION THREE

Western Suburbs	.....0	Slacks Creek	.....3
Darra United	.....2	University of QLD	.....0
Newmarket	.....0	Redlands Utd	.....2
Mitchelton	.....8	Clairvaux SC Inc	.....0
Souths Utd	.....3	Latrobe Athletic	.....2
Annerley Rec	.....0	Goodna & Dist	.....1

TABLE

Slacks Creek	19	16	5	4	68	9	50
Mitchelton	19	14	1	4	65	19	43
Newmarket	19	13	2	4	37	18	41
Souths United	19	9	5	5	43	24	32
Redlands United	19	9	2	8	40	26	29
University of QLD	19	8	3	8	38	33	27
Goodna & Districts	19	7	6	6	29	24	27
Darra United	19	7	5	7	39	38	26
Latrobe Athletic	19	5	4	10	40	52	19
Annerley Recreation	19	4	5	10	29	43	17
Clairvaux SC Inc	19	2	1	16	25	72	7
Western Suburbs	19	2	0	17	12	107	6

DIVISION FOUR

Browns Plains	.....1	Southside Eagles	.....2
Ipswich City	.....2	Greenbank	.....5
Moggill United	.....1	Samford	.....0
Brothers United	.....7	South Star	.....1
North Pine United	.....5	Pine Hills	.....1
Redcliffe City	.....2	Bayside United	.....3

TABLE

Moggill United	18	14	1	3	52	11	43
South Star	18	14	1	3	58	21	43
Bayside United	19	13	1	5	51	26	40
Southside Eagles	18	11	3	4	37	21	36
Brothers United	19	11	2	6	51	38	35
North Pine United	19	11	2	6	40	29	35
Redcliffe City	19	8	5	6	48	42	29
Samford	19	6	3	10	36	30	21
Pine Hills	19	5	1	13	23	54	16
Greenbank	19	3	2	14	37	76	11
Ipswich City	19	2	2	15	16	63	8

Northern New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION

Broadmeadow Magic.....2	Highfields.....1
Deloraine Eagles.....5	Westy Workers Bluebells1
Wallsend Red Devils.....1	Weston Workers Bears ..2
Pasminco Roosters.....0	Maitland Magpies.....2
Hamilton Warriors.....3	Cessnock Hornets.....1

RESERVE GRADE

Broadmeadow Magic.....4	Highfields.....0
Deloraine Eagles.....0	Westy Workers Bluebells0
Wallsend Red Devils.....1	Weston Workers Bears ..0
Pasminco Roosters.....2	Maitland Magpies.....1
Hamilton Warriors.....0	Cessnock Hornets.....0

TOOHEYS FIRST GRADE

Belmont-Swansea.....0	Thornton Park.....2
Beresfield United.....4	Toronto-Awaba.....1
Budgewoi Budgies.....0	Stockton Sharks.....2
Belmont Tigers.....0	Lambton Jaffas.....4
Singleton Strikers.....0	South Cardiff Gunners...3
Maning Mustangs.....1	Dudley-Redhead United..2

TOOHEYS RESERVE GRADE

Belmont-Swansea.....2	Thornton Park.....2
Beresfield United.....1	Toronto-Awaba.....4
Budgewoi Budgies.....7	Stockton Sharks.....0
Belmont Tigers.....0	Lambton Jaffas.....2
Singleton Strikers.....2	South Cardiff Gunners...5
Manning Mustangs.....2	Dudley-Redhead United..2

NBN FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Weston Workers Bears	16	13	3	0	49	19	42
Highfields Wolves	16	12	2	2	52	10	38
Hamilton Warriors	16	11	1	4	35	25	34
Wallsend Red Devils	16	8	3	5	25	14	27
Deloraine Eagles	16	8	1	7	32	19	25
Westy Workers B'ells	16	5	3	8	26	36	18
Broadmeadow Magic	16	5	2	9	29	46	17
Maitland Magpies	16	4	3	9	25	34	15

Eagles fly to semi finals

BY DANE SKAFTE

The Deloraine Eagles assured themselves of a semi final spot after their 5-1 win over the West Workers Bluebells last Sunday at Edgeworth Oval.

Both sides went into the match desperate to pick up points to give them any hope of making the top five.

The Eagles took the lead in the ninth minute after a free kick by Peter McGuinness went into the top corner of the net giving the keeper little chance.

The Bluebells equalised ten minutes later after a corner kick found big midfielder Mark Beagan left unmarked in the six yard area and he hammered the ball past keeper Dean Conway.

Three minutes later Eagles took the lead again after a free kick from the edge of the eighteen yard box was knocked home by Darren Elkin.

The Eagles continued to push forward and trouble the Bluebells defence when they scored their third goal after a superb cross which found Danny Gordon on the far post and he made no mistake with his diving header. Gordon scored his second goal just on the half time whistle to give the Eagles a 4-1 lead going into the break.

The Eagles put the issue beyond doubt ten minutes into the second half after striker Danny Burt pounced on a loose ball and flew down the wing to cross for Craig Penfold who slotted the ball home.

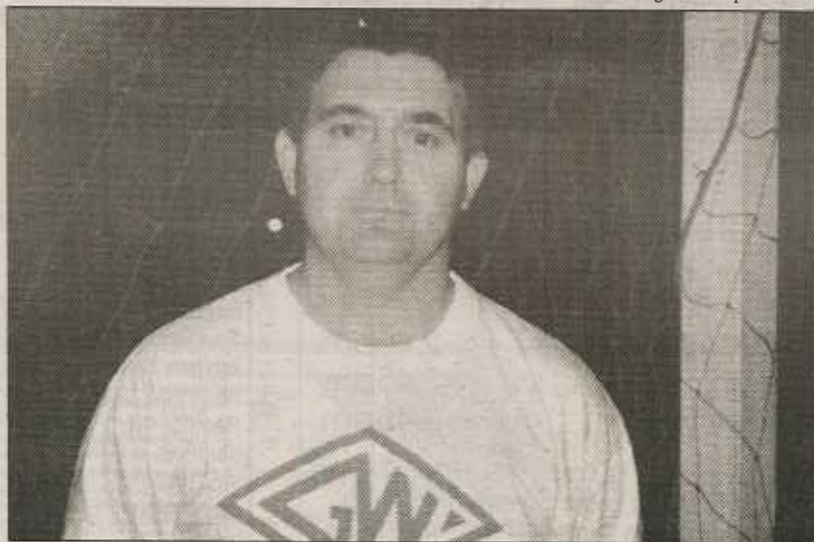
West Workers continued to push forward in the dying minutes of the game after having a golden opportunity by Bryan Wolski but was

shut down by keeper Conway.

Eagles coach Bob Naumov was delighted with the result but said there was plenty of room for improvement leading up to the finals "I would like to finish off on a good note there is a chance we can get into fourth place depending on other results and how we go in the final two games." Naumov concluded.

Bluebells coach Warren Shipley was disappointed with the result "we had to win today but unfortunately this did not happen. I thought we had the majority of the play but we lost concentration and this cost us dearly" Shipley said.

Shipley agreed that his side did not keep possession of the ball enough into the first half "We didn't put away our chances and with only two games left we will be trying to cause some upsets to Hamilton and Highfields" he said.



Richard Hatley: Must be pleased with having leading scorer at the Club.

WOLVES ON BEARS HEELS

Northern NSW First Division club Highfields Wolves are closing in on competition leaders Weston Bears after their 1-0 win over Deloraine Eagles last Wednesday night at Whitebridge Oval.

The Wolves are now on 38 points one point behind undefeated Weston Bears on 39.

The sides meet on Sunday July 28 at Weston Park.

This should decide the minor Premiership for the season.

INTERNATIONAL GREAT IN HUNTER

Former Manchester United and Northern Ireland star Norman Whiteside made a special visit last week to Newcastle to conduct a coaching clinic organised by Soccer International.

Whiteside spent more than seven hours coaching a dozen or so junior players and was very impressed with the talent and ability that was on display.

"I have been very impressed so far with some of the players that I have seen since arriving in Australia."

"I have noticed two good players since starting the clinic one in Adelaide and the other from Newcastle. When the clinics have finished I will be recommending one player to trial out for an English First Division club and this will include a scholarship."

"Over in the UK we have heard about all the good local talent from Down Under. This gives the opportunity for all players to be seen by high profile players."

The 31 year old concluded by saying "Hopefully the kids will pick up a thing or two or if they only pick up one thing it will be all worthwhile."

Whiteside played more than 200 games for Manchester United before a knee injury brought his career to an end in 1991.

He is in negotiation with current United star Ryan Giggs and ex United captain Bryan Robson to attend a similar clinic later this year around Australia for SCI.

Soccer Coaching International Spokesperson Gary Williams said the response to the coaching clinic has so far been great, "The kids have loved meeting Norman (Whiteside) and hopefully we can bring out



MACQUARIE REPRESENTATIVE UNDER 16 SOCCER TEAM

COACH: John Clifton MANAGERS: Gary Bergquist, Bob Austin PLAYERS: Brett Cox, Chad Bergquist, Chad Humphries, Arron Roberts, Ben Smith, Craig O'Neil, Simmon Dezius, Daniel Raey, Adrian Berry, Martin Dunn, Casey Target, Heath Williams, Nathan Bray, Adam Tudball.

more players in the near future."

LEADING SCORER RACE IS ON

With only two weeks left before the Northern NSW First Division Semi-Finals commence it will be a close battle for the First Division leading goal scorer between Brett Macaulay of Highfields Wolves and Justin Kavanagh and Ian Tressidder of Weston Bears at July 12 this how they stood: Brett Macaulay Highfields Wolves 14, Justin Kavanagh Weston Bears 11, Ian Tressidder Weston Bears 11, Benn Lane Hamilton Warriors 10.

WARATAH CUP MATCH IN THE HUNTER

Highfields Wolves will play Adamstown Rosebuds tomorrow night Wednesday, July 17, for the right to represent the Northern NSW Soccer Federation in the NSW Soccer Federation Waratah Knockout Cup. Highfields have progressed through after winning this year's Arctic Cup and will now face the Buds at Lisle Carr Oval at Whitebridge at 7:30pm.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY DEAN SIMPSON

A Unanderra youth grade player is facing a life ban after an alleged 'kung-fu kick' on a teenage female linesperson at Unanderra Oval on Saturday.

Referee George Ward, who is the linesperson's father, abandoned the game with three minutes remaining as a result of the incident.

Unanderra were leading Wollongong Olympic 2-0 at the time.

The incident flared after the referee had sent off a player, Joey Novac, for foul and abusive language on the linesperson's report.

Incensed at the decision, another Unanderra player, Michael Guevara, allegedly kicked out at the linesperson, Amanda Ward, striking her in the chest.

The Unanderra club is understood to have barred the player at a special committee meeting after the game.

According to the Illawarra Soccer Association rule book, the minimum sentence from striking, kicking or elbowing an official is a life ban.

Lysaghts have opened up a nine-point lead at the top of the Premier League following their 1-0 win over Dapto in the match of the round at Lysaghts Oval on Sunday.

Steve Krishna was the scorer, slotting home a through ball from fellow striker John Danzo in the 50th minute.

Dapto were looking for an upset win to sneak into the top four, but have to be content with sixth after a brave performance against the runaway leaders.

Points after round 14: Lysaghts 37, Port Kembla 28, Olympic 25, Bulli 20, Fernhill 19, Dapto 18, Balgownie 18, Cringila 17, Northern 16, Figtree 15, Coniston 14, Westderra 9.

Bulli are going through a goal drought. They have scored only three times in their past seven matches.

John Frew's lads started the season on fire but have lost five of their past seven matches.

At the weekend they scraped in with a scoreless draw against Cringila and now face a torrid three weeks against Wollongong Olympic, the in-form Fernhill and second-placed Port Kembla.

Down the road and Balgownie are having a mixed season — they love playing at home but their away record is dreadful.

They have lost only one game at Judy Masters Park all season but have picked up only one point away.

At the weekend they lost 1-0 to Fernhill at Fernhill.

This Friday night they take on champions Port Kembla back at home so they must be confident of an upset to maintain their impressive home record.

Ricky Peil has struck again. Fernhill's new signing scored the goal in a 1-0 win over Balgownie at the weekend, the fifth game in a row he has scored.

The midfielder converted a through ball from veteran Fernhill player Tony Bain after a Balgownie free kick broke down at the other end.

Fernhill are now unbeaten in six of their past seven outings and coach Peter Willis has his lads primed for an assault on the top four, starting with this Saturday's game at Cringila.

All five goals came in the first 29 minutes at Unanderra Oval on Saturday with Wollongong Olympic downing Westderra 3-2.

Olympic raced to a 3-0 lead after only 13 minutes through Adam Weekes (2nd minute), Peter Kotamanidis (11th) and Julio Miranda (13th) but that's where they stopped.

Olympic have yet to score four goals in one game this season and had their best chance at Unanderra Oval.

Westderra quickly clawed their way back with goals to Adrian Conion (27th minute) and Damian Delben (29th).

Olympic nearly blew it at the end when defender Paul McGarry miscued a clearance which went dangerously close to being an own-goal.

The loss keeps Westderra firmly entrenched at the foot of the table with Olympic maintaining third spot.



SUPER LEAGUE

	1st	U/21
Sutherland Sharks v Adamstown Rosebud	3-1	1-0
Central Coast v Illawarra Lions	0-1	1-1
Blacktown City v Canterbury Berries	0-1	4-2
Rockdale City Suns v St George Saints	1-2	0-3
Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles	1-2	1-2
Leichhardt Tigers v Bonnyrigg White Eagles	0-1	1-1
Bankstown City Lions v Warringah Dolphins	1-0	1-1

DIVISION ONE

	1st	U/21	U/18
*Belmore Hercules v Sydney Cosmos	N/A	1-3	1-1
Bathurst '75 v West Wanderers	0-0	2-1	0-1
*Ryde City v Stanmore Hawks	1-0	5-0	2-1
Dulwich Hill v Stanmore Hawks	1-0	0-6	2-1
Belmore Hercules v Penrith Panthers	3-2	0-6	2-2
Fairfield Bulls v Auburn United	5-1	1-2	1-1
Mt Pritchard v Ryde City	0-1	1-3	0-0
Mt Druitt Town v Southern Minotaur	1-1	2-4	0-4
Sydney Cosmos v Hills United	0-1	1-2	1-1
*Rescheduled from Round 16			

DIVISION TWO

	1st	U/21	U/18
*Sydney District v Trasandinos	N/A	N/A	2-0
**AC United v Prairiewood United	2-0	9-0	1-1
Sydney District v Prairiewood United	5-0	3-0	1-4
AC United v Parramatta City	2-3	4-3	5-2
Greystanes v Alexandria Warriors	2-1	3-0	2-0
Granville Greenisland v Hurstville SC	0-6	0-13	3-2
Concord Juniors v Trasandinos	4-0	3-0	2-1
University of NSW v Liverpool City	1-1	0-0	1-3
*Rescheduled game from Round 13			
**Rescheduled game from Round 7			

DIVISION THREE

	1st	2nd
*Hakoah v Earlwood Hermes	1-1	1-4
Prospect United v Gladesville United	1-5	3-4
Glebe Wanderers v Earlwood Hermes	3-1	1-1
Sporting SCC v Moorebank Sports	2-4	1-5
St Johns Park v Colo Colo	1-3	0-1
White City v The Wanderers	0-2	2-2
Hawkesbury City v Hakoah	1-0	6-1
*Rescheduled game from Round 15		

DIVISION FOUR

	1st	2nd
Arncliffe Scots v Fraser Park	1-1	1-1
Canley Vale Condors v Balmain	1-5	2-2
Marrickville Reds v CSI Schofield	4-0	2-1
Lithgow Workmen v Fairfield Kings	5-1	5-1
Springwood v Angels Liverpool	3-2	2-0
St Josephs v Sydney University	2-3	0-3

DIVISION FIVE

	1st	2nd
Maroubra United v Camden	2-1	2-0
Mascot Kings v Nepean Districts	1-2	1-0
AVA United v Gladesville Hornsby	4-1	2-1
Kosciusko v United Eagles	0-6	0-1

DIVISION SIX

	1st	2nd
Blacktown Premier v Racing	0-1	4-0
Homenetmen v Queens Park	5-4	0-1
UWS Macarthur v NSW Police	2-0	2-4

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S

	1st	2nd
Sydney Cosmos v Blacktown City	5-1	4-2
St George v Gladesville Ravens	2-0	0-4
NSW ITC/Penrith v Sutherland Shire	P/P	1-1
Macquarie District v Marconi	2-5	2-4
UWS Macarthur v NSW ITC/bye	0-2	N/A
*Penrith v St George		2-1
**NSW ITC v Blacktown Ravens	3-1	
*Rescheduled from Round 15		
**Rescheduled from Round 14		

DIVISION TWO

	1st	2nd
Penrith Panthers v Macarthur (1)	0-2	
Bathurst v University of NSW	2-0	
Moorebank (1) v Sydney United	7-0	
Illawarra Lions v Sydney Cosmos	2-0	
St George Association v Liverpool Olympic	5-0	
Moorebank (2) v Macarthur (2)	11-0	

Blacktown slump to home defeat

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 0

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 1

BY BOB BROOKS

Blacktown City Demons season of woe continued on Saturday night at the cold Gabbie Stadium, as they slumped to a 1-0 loss to Canterbury Marrickville.

This was only the Berries fourth win of the season which added to the miserable night for the Demons die-hard supporters.

Steve Berry showed plenty of enterprise early with a powerfully hit free kick that screamed wide of the upright. Then a solo raid forced opposition keeper Steve

Tolios to dive low to snatch the ball from the skipper's feet.

Zoran Ilic and John Christou tested the Demons defence within the first ten minutes but the home side held fast.

Scott Baillie pounded forward for the Demons. His powerful shot almost beat Tolios who scrambled to effect a save.

The best chance of the half fell to the Demons. Baillie laid a precision ball out to the right for Sarkis Boudaher but with Scott Xuereb standing unmarked at the far post, he screwed his attempted cross out of harms way.

The first half ended scoreless but six players had already been carded by referee Simon Micallef. Four more went in his book in the second half, a number of the

Blacktown players for irresponsible reasons.

56 minutes in, the complexion of the game changed. After the ball had appeared to have gone out of play on the sideline, Canterbury played to the whistle, which never came.

As Kon Tsauousidis ran into the box he was tripped. Micallef had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Tsauousidis took it himself giving John Crawley no chance.

Eight minutes later Baillie was on his way to goal when he was unceremoniously bundled down. Boudaher took the kick which Tolios did well to get to but the custodian palmed the ball over the bar.

Bryan Raeburn tested Crawley with a well directed header as the game fizzled out.

BONNYRIGG STAY IN TOUCH

Young Bonnyrigg White Eagles striker Vlado Skataric kept his side's grand final hopes alive today with the only goal in their NSW Superleague win over Leichhardt Tigers.

Played in gusty conditions on a bumpy Lambert Park, the Eagles' win enabled them to stay in touch with second round leaders Sutherland Sharks.

However, Leichhardt's promising season has all but vanished as they are now six points behind and have little chance of making the final.

The game never reached any great heights with Skataric's goal in the 31st minute one of the few chances in the match.

Johnny Ghisso's cross from the left was spilled by Tigers' keeper Frank Mikuletic and Skataric pounced on the loose ball to send his shot home.

With goal-scoring ace Stuart Cleary going off injured soon afterwards and Tony Krslovic well marked by Craig Moffitt, the Tigers' attack lacked any real penetration with Mladen Kos in no real trouble throughout the match.

Mikuletic nearly handed Bonnyrigg a second goal 10 minutes from the end, failing to hold onto an awkwardly bouncing ball which Javier Mancino slotted home only for the referee to rule a foul on the Tigers' keeper.

In a possible preview of next month's grand final, Sutherland defeated Adamstown Rosebud 3-1 at Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda.

With Adamstown having secured the first final berth, Sutherland scored a confidence boosting win to extend its unbeaten run to 22 matches and maintained its one point lead of the second

round table.

The visitors took an early lead through Graham Jennings with Andrew

Dowling levelling before halftime before Grant Barr and Greg Lerond secured the win with second-half goals.



John Buonavoglia: Scored for Saints.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 18

SATURDAY JULY 20

Central Coast v Bankstown City Lions

Plum Park, 6.00pm

ROUND 19

SUNDAY JULY 21

Bankstown City Lions v Rockdale City Suns

Jensen Park, 3.00pm

St George Saints v Macarthur Rams

St George Stadium, 3.00pm

Illawarra Lions v Parramatta Eagles

Ian McLellan Park, 3.00pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sutherland Sharks	9	5	4	0	13	5	19
Parramatta Eagles	8	5	3	0	11	4	18
St George Saints	8	5	2	1	19	7	17
Illawarra Lions	8	5	1	2	16	12	16
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	9	4	2	3	16	11	14
Leichhardt Tigers	9	3	4	2	13	14	13
Canterbury Berries	9	2	4	3	7	10	10
Blacktown City	9	2	3	4	15	15	9
Macarthur Rams	8	3	0	5	8	8	9
Rockdale City Sun	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
Bankstown City	7	2	2	3	10	15	8
Adamstown Rosebud	9	2	2	5	9	19	8
Warringah Dolphin	9	1	3	5	9	14	6
Central Coast	8	0	3	5	7	18	3

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramata Eagles	8	7	1	0	24	7	22
Sutherland Sharks	9	7	1	1	18	2	22
St George Saints	8	6	1	1	29	7	19
Blacktown City	0	6	1	2	26	13	19
Macarthur Rams	8	5	1	2	16	7	16
NBonnyrigg W/Eagle	9	4	2	3	16	15	14
Adamstown Rosebud	9	4	0	5	20	23	12
Warringah Dolphin	9	3	2	4	15	16	11
Canterbury Berries	9	2	2	5	22	27	8
Leichhardt Tigers	9	2	2	5	9	17	8
Central Coast	8	1	2	5	7	16	5
Bankstown City	7	1	2	4	7	19	5
Rockdale City Sun	8	1	1	6	9	18	4
Illawarra Lions	6	0	2	6	6	37	2

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	19	11	6	2	43	20	29
Belmore Hercules	19	9	6	4	46	26	33
Ryde City	19	9	6	4	31	15	33
Auburn United	19	9	4	6	49	53	31
Hills United	19	9	3	7	42	27	30
Penrith Panthers	19	8	5	6	36	34	29
Bathurst '75	18	7	7	4	25	19	28
West Wanderers	19	6	5	8	26	34	23
Dulwich Hill	18	6	4	8	22	26	22
Mt Druitt Town	19	5	5	9	24	52	20
Fairfield Bulls	18	5	4	9	34	37	19
Sthn Minotaur	18	5	4	9	25	36	19
Stanmore Hawks	19	4	6	9	26	36	18
Mt Pritchard	19	3	5	11	21	35	14

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	17	11	3	3	38	18	36
Hurstville	17	9	5	3	36	20	32
Concord Juniors	16	8	5	3	39	17	29
Alexandria Warrior	17	8	4	5	35	26	28
Sydney District	16	8	4	4	25	20	28
Parramatta City	17	6	4	7	21	21	22
Trasandinos	15	6	3	6	16	23	21
AC United	17	5	5	7	20	26	20
Liverpool City	16	4	4	8	28	29	16
Uni of NSW	16	1	11	4	19	23	14
Prairiewood	16	3	5	8	13	28	14
Granville G/Isld	16	1	3	12	17	56	6

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NNSW ITC	16	13	2	1	50	10	41
Sydney Cosmos	16	11	0	5	45	20	33
Marconi SC	16	10	3	3	40	17	33
St George	14	7	3	4	39	24	24
NSW ITC/Penrith	13	7	2	4	29	18	23
Sutherland Shire	15	7	2	6	19	23	23
UWS Macarthur	16	6	4	6	22	24	22
Gladesville Raven	16	3	4	9	15	38	13
Blacktown City	16	1	1	14	10	48	4
Macquarie District	16	1	1	14	13	60	4



Atlanta 1996

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Peter Tsekenis
AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIAN

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY



Frank Juric
AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIAN

Commonwealth Bank & Schools

Bill Turner Cup

A flu hit Colo HS saw their fairytale run in this year's Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup come to an end in the Area Final, played recently at Francis Park, Blacktown.

A goal ten minutes from time by Peter Helsen enabled Pat Bros Blacktown to score a narrow 1-0 win. Colo's midfielder Joshua Jackett was easily the best player on the field, as he skillfully dominated play and kept Colo on attack, whilst at the other end goalkeeper Daniel Schwarzer, younger brother of Soccerroo Mark, produced save after save to deny Patrician Brothers.

Gradually however Blacktown came more into the match, led by midfielder Peter Antar and with Helsen's pace continually causing trouble for Colo, with extra-time looming Schwarzer was finally beaten. Coach Viv Balatincz was delighted with the way her boys fought to the end and has been proud of their efforts in this their best ever Cup run.

Gilroy push Holy Cross

The second game saw a very even contest between the perennially strong Holy Cross College, Ryde and newcomers. Gilroy College, Castle Hill. In a very exciting match the ball swept from end to end before a late goal from Daniel Castellana sealed a 1-0 victory for Holy Cross. Best players for Holy Cross were keeper Paul Carbone, Mark Salvati and Daniel Disano. Keeper Robert Jurcovic, Steven Giacomelli and Luke Salkeld played well for Gilroy.

Evans High edged out

The early game saw Blacktown's Evans HS take a shock lead against the run of play through Mark Formosa. However Christian Brothers Lewisham were back on level terms by half-time, courtesy of a Lachlan Wright goal. In the second half the speedy Lewisham forward line of Wright, Michael Rossi and John Testone proved too much for a valiant Evans side, despite sweeper Peter Skeggs and rookie goalkeeper Jason Champion's best efforts. Further goals from Rossi and Anthony D'Agostino gave Lewisham a deserved 3-1 win.

Kirrawee frustrate Hurstville again

A large, enthusiastic crowd of supporters from both schools saw another gripping final a few days

later at Seymour Shaw.

Hurstville Boys had most of the play in the first half but somehow Kirrawee hung in there and the half finished scoreless.

After some words of wisdom from coach Brett McKay, Kirrawee came more into the game, after the break and play flowed from end to end. Finally ten minutes from the end Hurstville got the goal they had been seeking for so long. It seemed that the final might be theirs, when two minutes from time Kirrawee were awarded a hotly disputed penalty.

Up stepped Chris Hight to level the score and send the match into extra-time. Just when it seemed that Kirrawee would have their third penalty shootout in a row, substitute Kane Curran gave them victory, with a left foot shot into the far corner of the net reminiscent of the Euro 96 decider.

A jubilant Kirrawee team had won the Area final for the second time in three years, whilst unlucky Hurstville finished runners-up for the second time in a row.

Penalties eliminate Prairiewood

Marconi Oval was the venue for the last of the Sydney Area finals — the long awaited match up between Prairiewood HS and Patrician Brothers Fairfield. With almost identical results over the previous four rounds, good judges were convinced it would be a very close game.

So it proved to be. Two fast and skilful teams were very evenly matched and half-time was reached with no score. Prairiewood goalkeeper Adam Jovanic had caught the eye, with a couple of spectacular saves for the yellow and greens, in their first final since 1987, when they were denied by an up and coming goalkeeper from Liverpool Boys, called Bosnich.

In the second half Prairiewood went ahead after a lovely run down the right by midfielder Saso Trajkovski, which saw Alvaro Farias head the ball in past the stranded Fairfield keeper. Back came Fairfield courtesy of their excellent midfield of Alan La Proto, Victor Pavez and Delqui Bustos. The Prairiewood defence put under enormous pressure, from repeated attacks, finally conceded a penalty, which was converted by Nick Carle to level the scores.

No further score came during the remainder of

Schoolboys on tour in South America

BY BOB BROOKS

Thirteen schoolboys from Australia are currently on tour in Chile and Argentina. They are mainly sixteen year olds with one, Michael Tilt only 15.

The players were selected from schools playing in the 1995 Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup and managed to get together for a series of training sessions over the last twelve months.

Players have come from Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong with one from Melbourne Grammar.

David Jirsa is coach of the side with Colin Carpenter the Tour Co-ordinator. The 17 day trip commenced on June 28. As well as playing a number of games in Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Mar del Plata and Santiago, the participants world is being expanded as they are staying with local families.

The life-style contrasts between Australia and Chile and Argentina are something the boys will never forget. A trip to see the game between Boca Juniors and River Plate is a highlight. However the main reason for the trip is to play soccer. This they have done.

They enjoyed a first up 3-1 win and then a second victory by 3-0 in Buenos Aires. A 6-0 triumph came in Mendoza.

Two games scheduled for Chile have had to be postponed due to snow.

The playing squad is Ricardo Aguilera, Anthony Bevan, John Carusi, Steven Collier, Adrian Daniels, Gary de Sousa, Patrick Flynn, Andrew Folwell, Mathew Fuz, Michael Keats, Mark Marinelli, Nicholas Ryan, Michael Tilt.

The funds for the trip were raised by individual players.

We plan to bring you a summary of the trip in a future edition.

the game plus extra-time and then it was time for the dreaded penalties.

Patrician Brothers' experience saw them through in the shootout, and on to the next round to play their namesakes from Blacktown.

Although disappointed Prairiewood's young coach Anthony Bernard was thrilled by his young charges' season, which saw a Round Two victory over Cup defenders Westfield

Sports HS 2-0 and hopes it won't be another ten years before the school again makes the Area final.

PRE-QUARTER FINAL MATCHES

Tuesday July 23
Francis Park, Blacktown
Christian Brothers, Lewisham v Kirrawee High School 5.30pm
Patrician Brothers, Blacktown v Patrician Brothers Fairfield 7pm



Matthew Bingley: A product of schoolboy soccer.

WORLD RESULTS

NORWAY PREMIER

— July 8 —

Stroemsgodset	4	Start	1
Kongsvinger	2	Moss	1
Bodoe/Glimt	0	Rosenborg	4
Molde	3	Viking	0
Tromsøe	4	Brann	1
Stabaek	0	Vaalerenga	0

TABLE

Rosenborg	14	10	2	2	44	10	32
Lillestrom	13	8	2	3	27	14	26
Brann	14	7	3	4	27	26	24
Molde	14	7	2	5	29	19	23
Tromsøe	14	6	4	4	21	20	22
Skeid	13	7	1	5	18	21	22
Viking	14	5	5	4	24	17	20
Stabaek	14	4	6	4	24	22	18
Stroemsgodset	14	5	3	6	18	24	18
Kongsvinger	14	5	2	7	18	31	17
Vaalerenga	14	3	4	7	13	21	13
Moss	14	3	4	7	15	27	13
Bodoe/Glimt	14	3	3	8	18	29	12
Start	14	3	1	10	18	33	10

BELARUS PREMIER DIVISION

— July 9 —

Dinamo Minsk	1	MPKC Mozyr	0
N-D Novopolotsk	1	Torpedo Minsk	1
Dinamo Brest	1	Neman Grodno	2
Torpedo Mogilyov	0	Loko-96 Vitebsk	2
Obuvshchik Lida	0	Dnepr Mogilyov	2
Shakhtyor Soligorsk	0	Molodechno	0
Vedrich Rechitsa	0	Ataka-Aura Minsk	1
Belshyna Bobruisk	3	Dinamo-93 Minsk	1

TABLE

Dinamo Minsk	14	10	3	1	40	12	33
MPKC	12	10	0	2	26	7	30
Ataka-Aura	10	8	0	2	12	9	24
Dinamo-93	13	7	3	3	18	10	24
Belshina	13	7	2	4	24	17	23
Lokomotiv-96	13	5	6	2	18	9	21
Dnepr	13	5	3	5	12	14	18
Naftan-Devon	12	5	2	5	15	22	17
Molodechno	12	4	4	5	15	14	16
Torpedo Minsk	13	4	3	6	12	23	15
Dinamo Brest	13	3	6	4	22	14	15
Neman	12	2	4	6	11	23	10
Shakhtyor	12	2	4	6	7	21	10
Torpedo Mogilyov	13	2	3	8	14	28	9
Obuvshchik	13	1	4	8	8	19	7
Vedrich	13	1	3	9	7	18	6

FINLAND FIRST DIVISION

— July 8 —

HJK	2	FinnPa	3
Ilves	2	Haka	2
Inter	1	TPS	2
Jazz	1	RoPS	0
MP	1	MyPa	4

TABLE

TPS	15	8	4	3	23	17	28
Inter	14	8	3	3	19	11	27
Jazz	15	6	6	3	23	16	24
MyPa	14	6	3	5	24	21	21
Jaro	13	6	2	5	14	10	20
RoPS	14	5	4	5	19	15	19
Haka	14	5	4	5	15	16	19
FinnPa	14	4	5	5	16	16	17
HJK	15	5	2	8	16	23	17
Ilves	14	4	4	6	12	18	16
VPS	14	4	3	7	10	13	15
MP	14	3	2	9	9	24	11

USA MLS

— July 8 —

Kansas City	3	Los Angeles	1
New England	2	San Jose	1
Washington, DC	6	Dallas	1
Colorado	2	Columbus	1

Eastern Conference

	P	W	L	*	F	A	Pts
Tampa Bay	15	9	6	0	32	25	27
Washington	17	6	10	1	33	32	19
NY-NJ	16	4	9	3	18	22	15
New England	15	3	8	4	20	25	13
Columbus	17	3	12	2	33	43	11

Western Conference

Los Angeles	15	10	3	2	31	19	32
Kansas City	18	7	9	2	32	35	23
San Jose	16	7	8	1	26	23	22
Colorado	17	7	9	1	30	29	22
Dallas	18	6	8	4	24	26	22

*Won on shoot out

Intertoto Cup

Group 1: Standard Liege (Belgium) 2 Hapoel Haifa (Israel) 2 Cliftonville (Northern Ireland) 1 VfB Stuttgart (Germany). **Group 2:** Werder Bremen (Germany) 3 Djurgardens IF (Sweden) 2 Apollon Limassol (Cyprus) 4 Tofta Itrottarelag (Faroe Islands) 1. **Group 3:** Maribor Branik (Slovenia) 0 FC Copenhagen (Denmark) 1 Austria Memphis (Austria) 6 Keflavik (Iceland) 0. **Group 4:** Zaglebie Lubin (Poland) 3 Conwy United (Wales) 0 SV Marc O'Pollo Ried (Austria) 0 Silkeborg IF (Denmark) 3. **Group 5:** Sligo Rovers (Ireland) 3 Nantes (France) 3 SC Heerenveen (Netherlands) 0 Lillestrom SK (Norway) 1. **Group 6:** Stade Rennais FC (France) 1 Lucerne (Switzerland) 2 Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel) 1 Segesta Sisak (Croatia) 3. **Group 7:** Ataka-Aura Minsk (Belarus) 0 Antalyaspor (Turkey) 3 Rotor Volgograd (Russia) 4 Shakter Donetsk (Ukraine) 1. **Group 8:** Munich 1860 (Germany) 5 LKS Lodz (Poland) 0 Spartak Varna (Bulgaria) 0 Kaucuk Opava 1 (Czech Republic). **Group 9:** FK Cukaricki (Yugoslavia) 1 Daugava (Latvia) 3 Spartak Trnava (Bulgaria) 1 Karlsrueher (Germany) 1. **Group 10:** Lierse SK (Belgium) 1 Gaziantepspor (Turkey) 0 Vasas SC (Hungary) 4 JK Narva Trans (Estonia) 1. **Group 11:** Hibernians (Malta) 0 Strasbourg (France) 2 Ouralmash Ekaterinburg (Russia) 2 CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) 1. **Group 12:** FF Jaro (Finland) 2 Kolkheti Poti (Georgia) 0 Guingamp (France) 2 Dinamo Bucharest 1.

RUSSIA PREMIER

— July 10 —

CSKA Moscow	0	Baltika Kaliningrad	0
Torpedo Moscow	2	K N Chelny	1
Rostselmash Rostov	2	Spartak Moscow	4
Zenit St Petersburg	1	Krylya Sovetov	0
Zhemchuzhina Sochi	1	L N Novgorod	0
Baltika Kaliningrad	2	Lada Togliatti	0
Alania Vladikavkaz	2	T Kamyshev	1
C Novorossiisk	2	CSKA Moscow	1
Rotor Volgograd	2	L Moscow	1
U Yekaterinburg	1	Dynamo Moscow	4

TABLE

A Vladikavkaz	17	12	2	3	31	14	38
Rotor Volgograd	16	10	5	1	25	9	35
Spartak Moscow	16	10	4	2	31	12	34
Dynamo Moscow	16	9	6	1	26	9	33
CSKA Moscow	16	9	4	3	24	13	31
L N Novgorod	16	8	2	6	17	21	26
Torpedo Moscow	16	6	6	4	20	19	24
Zenit St Petersburg	16	6	4	6	16	15	22
L Moscow	16	5	7	4	17	13	22
Krylya Sovetov	16	5	5	6	10	12	20
R Rostov	16	5	4	7	25	26	19
B Kaliningrad	16	4	7	5	16	20	19
Z Sochi	16	5	3	8	14	25	18
C Novorossiisk	16	3	4	9	15	25	13
K N Chelny	17	3	3	11	13	25	12
Lada Togliatti	16	2	4	10	7	25	10
T Kamyshev	16	1	7	8	8	16	10
U Yekaterinburg	16	1	5	10	13	29	8

SOUTH KOREA PRO LEAGUE

— July 12 —

Ulsan	2	Chonbuk	1
Suwon	4	Chonan	2

TABLE

Ulsan	12	8	2	2	23	13	26
Suwon	11	7	2	2	20	9	23
Pohang	12	5	1	18	12	23	
Puchon	12	4	4	4	21	21	16
Chonbuk	11	3	4	4	17	17	13
Chonan	11	2	5	5	14	17	11
Pusan	2	3	2	7	16	21	11
Anyang	11	3	2	6	15	20	11
Chonnam	11	2	2	7	10	24	8

BELARUS PREMIER DIVISION

— July 12 —

Lokomotiv-6 Vitebsk	1	Dinamo Minsk	1
Molodechno	0	Dinamo-93 Minsk	1
Dnepr Mogilyov	0	MPKC Mozyr	4
Neman Grodno	0	Belshyna Bobruisk	3
Torpedo Minsk	2	Vedrich Rechitsa	1
Dinamo Brest	4	Shakhtyor Soligorsk	1
Torpedo Mogilyov	4	Obuvshchik Lida	1

WORLD STORIES

Golden goal plan set to continue

FIFA denied reports last week that it had plans to scrap the use of the sudden-death finish in extra time.

"It's completely absurd," said FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper. "There are no plans to scrap it and there never were. In fact, we don't even have any plans to discuss such a thing. It's not on any of our agendas."

The reports stem from an interview given by FIFA technical director Walter Gagg to a German magazine.

In the interview, Gagg said there might be a difference in the way a youth or women's side, as opposed to a men's team, approached the so-called "golden goal", adopting either an attacking or a defensive strategy.

"From that they stuck a headline on the story saying FIFA scraps the golden goal," said Cooper. "It was a complete and total misunderstanding. Although they quoted him reasonably well, their deductions were completely wrong."

After several experiments, FIFA decided to extend the idea of sudden-death finishes,

in which the first goal in extra time, the "golden goal", decides the match, to all competitions.

It was used for the first time in a major international tournament at last month's European Championship finals in England where it attracted widespread criticism.

Of the seven matches in the knockout stage, five went into extra time and only one, the final between Germany and the Czech Republic, was decided on sudden-death, the rest all going to penalty shootouts.

Designed to encourage teams to attack, the golden goal seemed to have the opposite effect as most sides appeared more anxious to defend during the 30 minutes of extra time and then take their chances in a penalty shootout.

Sudden-death finishes will be used at the Olympic soccer tournament in Atlanta later this month and at the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

(see page 5 for an Australian's idea on how to get a result)

Barcelona pay massive fee

With a \$A25.25 million transfer fee from Spain's Barcelona, Ronaldinho is set to become the most expensive player in Brazilian history.

The 19-year-old forward, who currently plays for Holland's PSV Eindhoven,

will go to Spain unless Inter-Milan uses its preferential option to match Barcelona's offer.

"I am happy, but I'm even happier to be playing in the Brazilian Olympic team," Ronaldinho said on Wednesday.

Bayern sign Torino striker



Italian striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli has quit Torino to sign a two-year contract with German giants Bayern Munich.

Rizzitelli, 28, cost the Bundesliga team a reported \$A3.53 million.

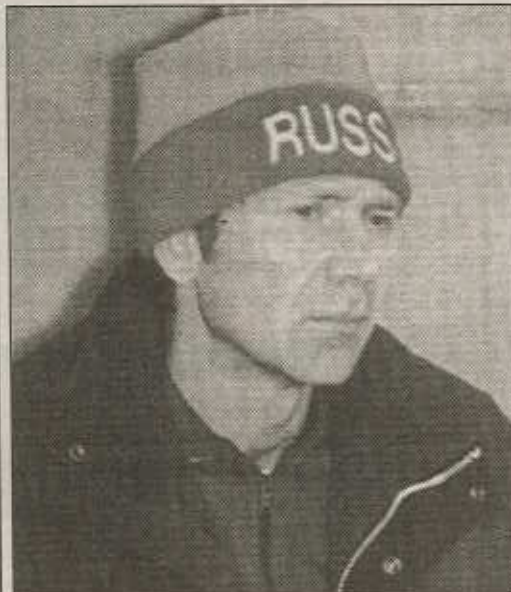
Bayern's Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni sees

Rizzitelli as the ideal man to link with German captain Jurgen Klinsmann in attack next season. This casts doubt on the future of French striker Jean-Pierre Papin at Bayern.

Birmingham City have been rumoured to be interested in the Frenchman.



Coach quits after Russia's failure



Oleg Romantsev (above) has resigned as Russia's coach today, taking the blame for his team's poor performance at last month's European Championship.

The Russian Football Union (RFU) accepted his resignation and appointed his deputy Boris Ignatyev as new coach.

"Romantsev regretted he had not succeeded in carrying out the tasks facing him," RFU president Vyacheslav Koloskov said. "He took the main blame for the failure on himself."

Russia, fancied outsider for Euro 96, went out at the first round stage after finishing bottom of the so-called "group of death".

It lost 3-0 to Germany and 2-1 to Italy before managing a 3-3 draw against eventual finalist the Czech Republic.

"His main mistake was that he took players who created an unhealthy commotion in the team," he said.

Ignatyev said he would try to sort out what he described as "the human factor" before the start of the qualifying campaign for the 1998 World Cup.

Ignatyev, 55, has worked with Russia's junior and youth teams and was assistant coach at two World Cups and two European championships.

TAPIE DECLARED BANKRUPT

France's Supreme Court upheld last week a ruling that former government minister and soccer boss Bernard Tapie was personally bankrupt, clearing a way for him to be deprived of his seats in the French and European parliaments.

The bankruptcy finding against the flamboyant rags-to-riches entrepreneur, whose business empire collapsed in 1994, bars him from public office for five years.

French and European officials will now have to begin proceedings against Tapie to deprive him of his seats in the European and French parliaments.

The judgment was the latest in a string of judicial developments involving Tapie, who is trying to stave off imprisonment in outstanding lawsuits arising from the collapse of his businesses.

A court in Bethune gave him a two-year suspended sentence last week for fraud in the management of the Testut weighing machine company. He was so relieved at not being sentenced to prison again that for the first time he decided not to appeal.

He is still fighting jail sentences of six and eight months incurred for tax fraud and rigging a match, in a humiliating finale to a meteoric career that made him a symbol of an "easy-money" era of the 1980s.

Barcelona re-sign Stoichkov

Bulgarian international striker Hristo Stoichkov (right) is to return to his former club Barcelona after an unhappy season at Italian club Parma.

Barcelona vice-chairman Joan Gaspart said Barcelona, who appointed former England manager Bobby Robson as trainer at the end of last season said Barcelona had bought Stoichkov back for less than half the amount Parma paid a year ago.

"We realise that he had other important offers but he wanted to come home," Gaspart added.

Stoichkov frequently clashed with former Barcelona coach Johann Cruyff during his previous stint at the club.

Italian newspapers said the deal had been struck last night.

No terms or details were disclosed but Parma were expected to receive \$A4.16

million for the mercurial Bulgarian, far from the reported \$A19 million the club paid for him in July 1995.

A former European Footballer of the

Year, Stoichkov failed to live up to expectations at Parma after five fine seasons at Barcelona where he helped win the European Cup in 1992.



SINGAPORE PRO-LEAGUE

The shock of Singapore withdrawing from the Malaysian league, has been overcome in the Island State.

The organiser of this breakaway is Douglas Moore an English coach with vast experience throughout Asia and Oceania.

The S-League is modelled on Japan's successful J-League.

The competition has been built on the then existing

amateur club system.

"Local domestic football needed improving," says Moore. "With the backing of major business and sponsors, the S-League kicked off at the start of April."

"We have a lot of control over the clubs because amateur football in Singapore had been going for 75 years and it was going nowhere so, like the country, we decided we needed

a lot of leadership from the top."

That leadership has seen strict restrictions on the clubs, particularly with constraints on budgets and the employment of foreign players, which each club must have at least three but no more than five.

"The football has improved incredibly," concluded Moore.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

ZELIC'S ENGAGEMENT TO CROATIAN GIRL

Ned Zelic will play in France next season with Auxerre. He has announced that he is getting engaged this month to a Croatian model Irena Skoric who comes from Sibenik on the Dalmatian Coast.

The two were spotted nightclubbing in Croatia (see picture) and look like a perfect couple.



Ned Zelic: Will this young lady help 'The Wanderer' to settle?

BESIKTAS SIGN MRMIC

One of Turkey's elite soccer teams, Besiktas have signed 28 year old Croatian goalkeeper Marizan Mrmic from Varteks.

Mrmic showed great reflexes when Croatia played England at Wembley and was in goal for Croatia at Euro 96 against Portugal.

He is a fine keeper who should do well in Turkey and will most likely see out his career there.



Igor Stimac: Sent off for patting a lino on the head. Good job he didn't hit him.

EURO 96 FOR CROATIA

The Good: • Croatia a country which was recently torn apart by armed conflict actually made it to the last eight of Europe's best and finished sixth.

• Suker showed he is probably the best striker in Europe and if anything is very underrated.

• The coming of age of Vlaovic, Stanic and Simic who performed beyond expectations.

• Asanovic peaked at the championships.

The Bad: • Playing without a major star such as Alen Boksic for most of the tournament.

• 'Zvone' Boban was unfit and out of form due to a virus.

• Prosinecki's feud with the coach kept him out of the crucial match against Germany.

• Heavy loss to Portugal 0-3 which will be in the record books forever.

• Gabric (Hajduk) and Brajkovic (Munich 1860) didn't get to play in Euro 96 but where in the squad of 22.

The Ugly: • Bilic's uncalled for kick at a German player, lying in the penalty box.

• Stimac's pat on the linesmen's head and his send off.

• Jerman's handball which gave the German's a penalty which they converted.

• Dubravko Pavlicic who cut his long hair, in order to have it shaved, to get the Pamic look.

• Hajduk Split have bought Macedonian International Sedlovski to strengthen its midfield. Other new faces include Albanian Njhiu and promoted juniors Madzar, Jozinovic, Lalic and Aussie Josip Skoko.

• Trying out for Croatia Zagreb are: Macedonian Bequiri as stopper, Ukrainian (21 year old) Morograndy for Libero, Albanian Vokri for midfield and Slovenian Mitko Galic for striker.

• Croatia Zagreb coach Otto Baric has given the OK for Dario Simic to talk to Ajax. The 20 year old Libero played well at Euro 96 where he was watched by Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal.

The coach has told his officials to starting talking terms with Simic who is to replace Milan bound Reiziger at right back.

• Renato Jurces is the only major buy for Croatia Zagreb but one which could prove crucial as he was Hajduk's most prolific striker for the past two seasons.

For more Croatian Sports News and a good laugh tune into CRO 2000 with Ante Grabovic. The program is broadcast in English on Sydney's 98.5FM at 8.50pm Wednesday's. Don't miss it.



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	21	14	4	3	51	22	46
Bentleigh Green	21	14	3	4	43	22	45
Sunshine GX	21	14	3	4	33	22	45
Altona Gate	21	14	1	6	47	23	43
Thomastown Zeb.	21	11	5	5	40	27	38
Green Gully	21	8	9	4	24	27	33
Port Melbourne	21	8	8	5	47	35	32
Bulleen	21	7	7	7	30	30	28
North Geelong	21	7	4	10	25	38	25
Box Hill Inter	21	5	4	12	24	44	19
St Albans	21	4	3	14	23	41	15
Albion	21	3	5	13	18	37	14
Fawkner	21	3	5	13	19	41	14
Springvale City	21	3	3	15	23	48	12

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	20	15	0	5	61	36	45
Thomastown	20	13	3	4	47	19	42
Port Melbourne	21	11	5	5	41	25	38
Bulleen	20	11	2	7	50	29	35
Bentleigh Green	19	10	3	6	46	38	33
Sunshine G.X.	20	7	9	4	35	31	30
Green Gully	20	8	5	7	40	32	29
Box Hill Inter	20	7	5	8	34	38	26
Fawkner	20	7	4	9	31	45	25
Altona Gate	20	7	3	10	41	45	24
Springvale City	20	5	7	8	44	41	22
Albion	21	6	1	14	34	68	19
St Albans	20	3	7	10	21	36	16
North Geelong	21	3	2	16	21	66	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	17	11	3	3	37	16	36
Preston Lions	17	9	6	2	28	11	33
West Suburbs	17	9	5	3	22	11	32
Lalor Utd	17	8	5	4	40	28	29
Kings City	17	7	8	2	21	16	29
C'don City Dons	17	7	5	5	34	20	26
Richmond	14	6	8	2	24	18	26
Moorabbin City	16	6	4	6	19	21	22
Werribee City	17	6	2	9	24	32	20
Westgate	17	5	5	7	31	23	20
Don'ter Rovers	17	4	8	5	21	24	20
Northcote City	16	3	5	8	13	25	14
Broadmeadows	16	2	2	12	15	43	8
Glen Eira City	17	0	2	15	9	30	2

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Werribee City	17	11	3	3	33	21	36
Preston	14	11	1	2	34	12	34
Croydon City	17	10	2	5	41	25	32
Don'ter Rovers	17	10	1	6	39	22	31
Moorabbin City	15	9	3	3	37	17	30
Richmond	14	8	3	3	25	14	27
Kings City	17	7	3	7	38	30	24
Sp White Eagles	16	7	1	8	42	31	22
Lalor United	17	7	1	9	40	30	22
West Suburbs	14	5	2	7	29	35	17
Northcote City	16	5	1	10	16	49	16
Glen Eira City	17	3	2	12	20	49	11
Westgate	15	3	0	12	11	45	9
Broadmeadows	14	2	1	11	12	37	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	17	13	2	2	68	19	38
Altona East	17	10	5	2	37	21	35
Sth Dandenong	17	10	3	4	37	22	33
Altona City	17	9	3	5	32	16	30
Waverley City	17	7	4	6	33	33	25
Ess Brun Royals	17	6	6	5	18	18	24
Knox City	17	5	7	5	23	30	22
East Richmond	16	6	3	7	29	25	21
Frankston Pines	16	5	6	5	24	23	21
Regent Bulla	17	4	7	6	15	24	19
Nunawading City	17	3	5	9	18	44	14
Oakland	17	2	7	8	18	46	13

Bell Park	16	3	3	10	17	28	12
Mooroolbark	17	3	3	11	20	37	12

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Pines	17	14	1	2	40	14	43
Waverley City	17	11	0	6	54	31	33
Ess Brun Royals	17	10	2	5	35	18	32
Altona City	16	10	0	6	41	26	30
Mooroolbark	17	6	6	5	31	33	24
Regent Bulla	16	8	0	8	33	41	24
East Richmond	16	6	5	5	26	22	33
Westvale	17	7	4	6	29	27	22
Oakland	17	7	0	10	45	36	21
Altona East	17	6	3	8	29	32	21
Knox City	17	6	3	8	33	37	21
Nunawading City	17	4	2	11	26	45	14
Sth Dandenong	17	4	2	11	28	49	14
Bell Park	16	2	4	10	23	62	10

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	17	14	0	3	60	21	42
Ringwood City	17	10	5	2	38	12	32
Sth Springvale	16	10	1	5	42	23	31
Dia Valley Utd	17	10	1	6	24	23	31
Cranbourne	17	9	3	5	28	20	30
Fitzroy City	15	6	4	5	28	22	22
Sth Werribee	16	6	6	4	37	20	24
Sth Caulfield	17	6	2	7	34	34	23
Pascoe Vale	17	6	4	7	21	24	22
Banyule	17	4	5	8	22	36	17
Melb City	17	4	4	9	24	32	16
Keilor Eagles	17	5	5	9	14	26	14
Chelsea	17	2	5	12	23	74	9
Clifton Hill	16	1	3	12	12	44	6

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne	17	13	3	1	69	11	42
Ringwood City	16	13	1	2	45	14	40
Keilor Eagles	17	12	3	2	47	16	39
Sth Springvale	16	10	2	4	43	14	32
Dia Valley Utd	17	9	2	6	44	30	29
Fitzroy City	16	8	5	3	37	26	29
Frankston	17	6	4	7	43	34	22
Melb City	17	6	4	7	31	29	22
Pascoe Vale	17	7	1	9	32	40	22
Sth Werribee	16	6	3	7	33	38	21
Banyule	16	4	2	10	34	54	14
Sth Caulfield	17	2	5	10	15	34	8
Chelsea	17	2	0	15	20	68	6
Clifton Hill	16	0	1	15	6	95	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	17	12	3	2	41	18	39
Geelong	17	10	5	2	39	23	35
Sun Heights	17	10	2	5	36	17	32
Nth Coburg Utd	17	10	2	5	42	27	32
Stonnington	17	10	1	6	34	22	31
Lalor	17	8	4	5	33	23	28
Monbulk	17	6	6	5	19	20	24
Sunbury Utd	17	6	5	6	21	19	23
Langwarrin	17	5	5	7	33	31	20
Seaford Utd	17	6	1	10	20	32	19
Moreland City	17	5	3	9	23	32	18
Williamstown	17	4	4	9	22	30	16
Corio	17	4	2	11	17	38	14
San'ham City	17	1	1	15	9	57	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	17	14	2	1	63	13	44
Sunbury Utd	17	12	2	3	27	12	38
Sun Heights	16	10	4	2	44	9	34
Nth Coburg Utd	17	10	2	5	51	33	32
Stonnington	16	9	2	5	34	21	29
Lalor	16	7	6	3	32	25	27
Yarraville	16	7	4	5	36	24	25
Seaford Utd	17	6	6	5	39	27	24
Monbulk	17	5	4	8	19	31	19
Moreland City	17	5	2	10	28	32	17
Geelong	17	4	4	9	18	50	16
Corio	17	5	5	9	20	36	14

Williamstown	17	1	2	14	15	62	5
San'ham City	17	1	1	15	13	64	4

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melton	15	9	4	2	30	14	31
Keysborough	15	10	1	4	28	14	31
Geel Rangers	15	9	3	3	38	18	30
Sth Wantirna	15	9	2	4	38	19	29
Sp'vale Condors	15	8	6	1	28	19	27
Knox Park	15	6	3	6	31	27	21
Nth Sunshine	15	6	3	6	29	25	21
Mornington	15	6	2	7	19	31	20
Mitcham Utd	15	6	1	8	25	26	19
Doveton	15	4	5	6	20	25	17
Old Scotch-Haw	15	4	3	8	18	20	15
Glenroy	15	3	5	7	24	30	14
Ballarat	15	3	3	9	13	32	12
Heidelberg City	15	1	1	13	8	49	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	15	8	5	2	38	17	29
Mitcham Utd	14	8	3	3	44	27	27
Mornington	15	8	3	4	24	23	27
Glenroy	14	7	3	4	38	23	24
Nth Sunshine	15	7	3	5	23	25	24
Sp'vale Condors	14	8	2	4	41	23	23
Melton	15	7	2	6	26	22	23
Ballarat	13	6	1	6	26	25	19
Sth Wantirna	14	4	5	5	20	23	17
Geel Rangers	15	5	2	8	22	31	17
Keysborough	15	4	2	9	29	36	14
Heidelberg City	14	3	4	7	15	38	13
Old Scotch-Haw	15	2	6	7	26	36	12
Doveton	14	2	3	9	16	39	9

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lyndale United	15	10	3	2	43	13	33
Endeavour Utd	15	9	5	1	66	16	32
Croxton	14	10	1	3	47	20	31
Sth Yarra	14	9	0	5	34	32	27
Brandon Park	14	8	1	5	31	24	25
Berwick City	15	6	3	6	24	25	21
Braeside Utd	14	5	4	5	26	23	19
Meadow Park	14	5	4	5	14	19	19
Hoppers Crossing	15	5	4	6	27	39	19
Brunswick City	15	5	3	7	25	27	18
Hampt Pk Utd	15	3	5	7	22	34	14
Dandenong	15	3	2	10	14	32	11
N. Glenr	15	2	4	9	16	43	10
E Nun Eagles	14	2	1	11	16	58	7



TACKLE DIABETES



PREMIER LEAGUE — ROUND 22

FRIDAY, 19TH JULY

Springvale City Vales v Box Hill Inter
(2nds: 6.30pm/1sts: 8.30pm)

SUNDAY, 21ST JULY

Altona Magic v Bulleen Lions
Fawkner Blues v Sunshine Georgies
Heidelberg United v Green Gully Cavaliers
Albion Redsoxs v Thomastown Zebras
Pt Melbourne Sharks v St Albans Saints
Nth Geelong Warriors v Bentleigh Greens

(2nds: 1.00pm/1sts: 3.00pm)

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, 20TH JULY — ROUND 18

Northcote City v Richmond
Moorabbin City v S'vale Wht Eagles

SUNDAY, 21ST JULY

Croydon City v Werribee City
Lalor Utd v Br'meadows City
Kingston City v Glen Eira City
Western Suburbs v Westgate
Doncaster Rovers v Preston Lions

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, 20TH JULY

Frankston Pines v Nunawading City
Ess. Bruns. Royals v Bell Park
East Richmond v Altona East
Oakleigh v Knox City
Sth Dandenong v Regent-Bulla
Altona City v Westvale
Waverley City v Mooroolbark

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SATURDAY, 20TH JULY

Melbourne City v Keilor Eagles
Sth Caulfield v Chelsea
Diamond Valley Utd v Pascoe Vale
Frankston v Clifton Hill
Cranbourne v Banyule City
Sth Werribee v Sth Springvale
Fitzroy City v Ringwood City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

SATURDAY, 20TH

Yarraville v Lalor
Sandringham City v Corio
Sunbury Utd v Langwarrin
Williamstown v Monbulk
Geelong v Stonnington City
Nth Coburg Utd v Moreland City
Sunshine Heights v Seaford Utd

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, 20TH — ROUND 16

Ballarat v Knox Park
Doveton v Keysborough
Old Scotch/Hawt v Nth Sunshine
Geelong Rangers v Glenroy
Melton v Heidelberg City
S'vale Condors v Sth Wantima
Mornington v Mitcham Utd

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, 20TH JULY

Dandenong v Braeside Utd
Brandon Park v East Nun. Eagles
Nth Glenroy v Brunswick City
Crofton v Hampton Park Utd
South Yarra v Endeavour Utd
Meadow Park v Lyndale Utd
Hoppers Crossing v Berwick City

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

METROPOLITAN

SATURDAY, 20TH JULY — ROUND 14

Monash Uni v Br'meadow Utd
Ashburton v Keilor Utd
Uni Melb. Blues v Melb. Uni Rangers
Elwood City v Parkmore
T'stowe Eagles v Ringwood Rovers
Newb/Yalloum v Riversdale

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, 21ST JULY

Collingwood City v East Kew
Cam. Gr. Old Boys v Yarra Utd
Wav. Wanderers v Endeavour Hills
Thornbury v Nth Caulfield
Flem. Falcons v Oakleigh Utd
Ivanhoe Utd v Noble Park

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

NORTH/WEST

SUNDAY, 21ST JULY

Diamond Valley v Keon Park
Darebin Utd v Latrobe Uni
West Preston v Mill Park
Upfield v Nth Reservoir
Sydenham Park v Northern Utd
Whittlesea Utd v Sunshine Park

ALTONA 5 NTH GEELONG 1 BY ZORAN MILENKOVSKI

An adventurous Altona Magic crushed a disappointing North Geelong Warrior 5-1 at Paisley Park on Sunday.

Altona opened the scoring in the 15th minute when a Savva Rusmir cross found big Tom Markovski to hit the Magic's first.

Striker Nick Georgopoulos scored goals in the 29th and 41st minutes to continue Altona's blitz approaching half time.

In the second half Altona's guns were firing and Rusmir put one past Joey Didulica in the 61st minute.

An own goal from Warriors defender Ivan Medved from a Rusmir cross added a fifth for the Magic.

A consolation goal was scored in the 90th minute when an Ante Deak cross found Ante Skoko to score for the Warriors.

MAGIC: McGrath, Tasevski, Atanasovski, Markovski, Rusmir, Micevski (Cvetkovski), Velkovski (Bogoevski), Georgopoulos, Petrov, Becvinovski, Runje.

WARRIORS: Joey Didulica, Biscan, O'Sullivan, Medved, Cosic, Saric, Deak, Dimovski, Cervinski, Skoko, Rajher (Moore).

REFEREE: Juergen Annuss.

VOTES: 3 — Georgopoulos (Magic), 2 — Rusmir (Magic), 1 — Markovski (Magic).

SUNSHINE 0 HEIDELBERG 3 BY JOHN RIGAS

In the top of the table clash Heidelberg United crashed the Sunshine Georgies 3-0 to move into first place at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

Heidelberg produced winners all over the park, most impressive were Steve Iosifidis, Tom Karapatsos and George Svigos, who entertained the crowd.

It came as no surprise when Heidelberg took the lead in the 17th minute, after excellent work from Svigos beating two defenders and sending in a cross to Andy Vlahos who finished with ease.

United increased its lead when a Con Boutsianis shot was blocked and Svigos pounced onto the rebound to power his shot past Steve Wardle.

Top goal getter Bobby Despotovski rounded off the scoring in the 91st minute

when he half-volleyed in his 22nd of the season past Wardle via a Con Boutsianis corner.

GEORGIES: Wardle, Makris, Kanesoulis, De Bono (Spiteri), Tsirtsakis, Aretis, Vassallo (Stojanovski), Field, Daglaras (De La Plaza), Bacak, Nilo.

UNITED: Clarke, Koutos, Karapatsos, Iosifidis (Daris), Fak, McNicol, Svigos (Tyrikos), Hasler, Boutsianis, Vlahos, Despotovski.

REFEREE: Andrew Stacey.

VOTES: 3 — Karapatsos (United), 2 — Iosifidis (United), 1 — Svigos (United).

GREEN GULLY 2

SPRINGVALE 2

BY LUKE BUTTIGIE

The Green Gully Cavaliers blew a golden opportunity to close the gap behind Thomastown, conceding a late equaliser in their home clash with Springvale City Vales.

Tony Necesi opened the scoring for Gully after 20 minutes punishing Vales 'keeper Steve Christov for fumbling an earlier shot from John Waddell.

Springvale were back at the interval, care of Eduardo Carlos who made no mistake running unmarked onto the ball inside the penalty area.

After Cameron Brown had missed trying to lob over Christov, Jani Suric easily beat the Springvale 'keeper from a slight angle in the 65th minute.

Seemingly cruising, like they were against Box Hill two weeks ago, the Cavaliers were left to rue what might have been when Springvale substitute John Dell'Aquila equalised in the 92nd minute.

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Chetcuti, Cimino, Waddell, Brown, Necesi, Markovski, Crodden, Suric, Stojceviski.

VALES: Christov, Lettieri, Carlos (Gomez), Razzi, Impellizzeri (Dell'Aquila), D. Grella, Lancaster, Rosa, A. Vargas (De La Plaza), P. Grella, R. Vargas.

REFEREE: Eugene Brazzale.

VOTES: 3 — Waddell (Cavaliers), 2 — Brown (Cavaliers), 1 — Necesi (Cavaliers).

BULLEEN 1

FAWKNER 1

BY DWYGH

TUFFNELL

The Fawkner Blues, fighting for their Premier

League lives, had to settle for a 1-1 draw away to the Bulleen Lions.

The Blues had the chances in the second half in particular, to get three vital points in their relegation battle.

Fawkner took the lead after just five minutes from a spectacular Peter Bordignon volley from the edge of the area following Marcus Stergiopoulos' corner.

It took the Lions just 10 minutes to wipe out that lead with Frank Catalano heading past ex-Bulleen player Damien Beattie in Fawkner's goal.

Bulleen had their current 'keeper, Anton Cizmadija, to thank for some neat saves when the Blues threatened his goal.

Ollie Pondeljak and Brian Bothwell worked well in tandem for patches of the second period but were often let down when it came to creating clear cut opportunities.

LIONS: Cizmadija, Valentic, Stojceviski, Tsiakos, Sonsini, McAleer, Grbac, Di Iorio (White), Everetts, Catalano, Liparoti.

BLUES: Beattie, Tramontana, Bordignon, Schipano, Branov, Bothwell, Pondeljak, Minichiello, Kuzman, Ferla, Stergiopoulos.

REFEREE: Gerry Connolly.

VOTES: 3 — Stojceviski (Lions), 2 — McAleer (Lions), 1 — Bordignon (Blues).

ST ALBANS 0

BENTLEIGH 1

BY NICHOLAS

TZAFERIS

The Bentleigh Greens moved into second spot on the table after disposing of a weakening St Albans by a solitary goal at Churchill Reserve.

Full back Stelios Drakos fired home an 83rd minute goal following a cleverly worked free kick. Drakos piledriver from over 20 years left Saints' goalkeeper Marijan Vunderl with little time to react.

The first half was even before the Greens assumed control with the wizardry of winger Jim Kotsovolos a clear highlight.

Bentleigh survived a 72nd minute scare when an Idriz Pelja strike rebounded off the upright before they powered home to register their 14th win of the season.

Even without Ike Alagiozidis, Lee Luton and Harry Micheil, the Greens once again showed that they cannot be underestimated at this level.

SAINTS: Vunderl, M. Colina, Magdic, Gagula, Razov, Jolic, Grganovic, Pelja, Movric, Pondeljak, Lewis.

GREENS: Jones, Drakos, Bakker, Constantinou, Theoharous, Kotsovolos, Charalambous, Kalimeris, Rossios (Papettas), McDonagh, Crivari.

REFEREE: Cain Naumcevski.

VOTES: 3 — Kotsovolos (Greens), 2 — Bakker (Greens), 1 — Drakos (Greens).

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 21

RESULTS

St Albans Saints 0 — Bentleigh Greens 1 (Drakos)

Thomastown Zebras 1 (Zinni) — Port

Melbourne Sharks 1 (Dimitrelos)

Altona Magic 5 (T. Markovski, Georgopoulos

2, Rusmir, og) — North Geelong Warriors 1

(Skoko)

Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Necesi, Suric) —

Springvale City Vales 2 (Carlos, Dell'Aquila)

Box Hill Inter 0 — Albion Redsox 1 (Donnelly)

Sunshine Georgies 0 — Heidelberg United 3

(Vlahos, Svigos, Despotovski)

Bulleen Lions 1 (Catalano) — Fawkner Blues 1

(Bordignon)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

22 Despotovski (Heidelberg)

15 Zinni (Thomastown)

14 Becvinovski (Altona)

12 Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)

Nilo (Sunshine)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE

TOP VOTES

25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)

18 — Cassar (Sunshine)

17 — Ngata (Thomastown)

16 — Bell (Port Melbourne)

15 — Cosic (North Geelong)

Georgiadis (Heidelberg)

BOX HILL 0

ALBION 1

BY ANTHONY PELUSO

In a match that could be described as dull, Albion came away with an important 1-0 win over Box Hill Inter who recorded their fifth straight loss at home.

Not much action resulted in the first-half, although as early as in the fourth minute, Kerion Lennon of Box Hill hit the crossbar with a header from a corner kick.

In the 27th minute Tom Zelic of Box Hill hit a powerful shot which brought a good save from Albion keeper Martin John.

Redsox midfielder Paul Donnelly scored an important goal which brought Albion out of the relegation zone.

Donnelly ran onto a through ball in the penalty area to slot the ball past Keogh to give his team an important victory.

INTER: Keogh, Pansino, Lennon (Ingelse), Tartaglia, Dal Ben, Marcen, Zelic, Guscic, Castro (Chirico), Roodhouse, Frezzini (Tsakiris).

RED SOX: John, Garpinar, Osman, Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Scrobogna (Retre), Carter (McMinimee), Patsaman (Ger), Grimuad.

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.

VOTES: 3 — Carter (Redsox), 2 — Donnelly (Redsox), 1 — Lucchesi (Redsox).

THOMASTOWN 1

PT MELBOURNE 1

BY GEORGE

KOUKERIS

A game so depended on a winning result to either team, created an exciting



NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

FRIDAY JULY 19

Springvale City Vales v Box Hill Inter

(Kick off 8.30pm)

FRIDAY JULY 21

Altona Magic v Bulleen Lions

Fawkner Blues v Sunshine Georgies

Heidelberg United v Green Gully Cavaliers

Albion Redsox v Thomastown Zebras

Port Melb Sharks v St Albans Saints

Nth Geelong Warriors v Bentleigh Greens



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THE RUN HOME TO THE FINALS

BY CON STAVROS

It's showtime in the Victorian Premier League with clubs set for the annual scramble for playoff positions and relegation evasion.

With just five matches left in the year, a clear five teams look odds-on to be set for finals action with just a handful capable of a mathematical sneak into contention.

At the foot of the table it's a little tighter with a posse of clubs set to sweat out results over the next month.

FINAL FIVE

The Premier League has resisted the temptation over the years to expand its final five system, which is commendable given that the McIntyre play-off system originally devised for the Victorian Football League in the early 70s remains the most logical, rational and entertaining championship contender ever devised.

Top spot remains the ultimate goal (which pleases the soccer purists) and chances to qualify for the Grand Final dwindle as the clubs fill the lower positions on the table.

Whatever you think of the Grand Final, it is top-notch excitement and has proved to be the highlight of the Victorian soccer calendar by a long way.

BIG CROWDS

Whilst the average crowd figure at Premier League games is often countable (literally) by hand at half-time, the crowds for finals series and the Grand Final have often put National League games to shame.

The fantastic idea of finals double-headers has also been a super-success, combining the excitement of two events into a much larger and more concentrated spectacular.

Soccer administrator's may get things wrong some times, but there is no doubt that Victorian soccer handles finals football as well as any other sporting body in the country — and that includes the big name football codes.

GOLD POINTS

To participate in that drama though some clubs are going to require a string of wins and a swag of luck over the last five rounds.

For other clubs, every point and every goal may now be worth gold as the battle to just stay in the Premier League continues.

In case you've forgotten, two sides are relegated at the end of the season to the Victorian State League and if past history is any indication, once the slide starts it is an almost impossible road back.

Here's the run home for your team with ABSW's pick for their final finish.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

GreenGully
at Box Hill
Thomastown
at St Albans
Bentleigh Greens



Key Match: August 18
versus Bentleigh
Greens (last time won
1-0)

ABSW Says: Has the best run home of all the top clubs and can realistically expect to be in contention for the top spot on the table.

Prolific scoring of Bobby Despotovski makes them most dangerous at the right time.

Will Finish: First

ALTONA MAGIC

Bulleen Lions
at Sunshine Georgies
Green Gully
at Box Hill
Thomastown



Key Match: July 28 at
Sunshine Georgies
(last time 1-1)

ABSW Says: Sunshine, Green Gully double will tell the tale of their season.

Possible big showdown with Thomastown also looming. Three home games sets up a good shot for a double chance.

Will Finish: Third

FAWKNER

Sunshine Georgies
at Green Gully
Box Hill
at Thomastown
St Albans



Key Match: August
18 versus St Albans
(last time won 1-0)

ABSW Says: Dramatic coaching changes and player purchases may just save Fawkner. Likely to come down to final round with testing matches away to Gully and Thomastown requiring draws at a minimum.

Have three of last five at home which may tip the balance their way.

Will Finish: Twelfth

SPRINGVALE CITY

Box Hill
at Thomastown
St Albans
at Bentleigh Greens
Port Melbourne



Key Match: August 2
versus St Albans (last
time 0-0)

ABSW Says: Must defeat Box Hill and St Albans and hope for at least one win in their three other games to have a hope. Will need results above them to go their way also, which makes their chances the slimmest of all relegation teams.

Will Finish: Last

BENTLEIGH GREENS

at North Geelong
Port Melbourne
at Albion
Springvale City
at Heidelberg

Key Match: August 18
at Heidelberg (last
time won 1-0)

ABSW Says: Unlikely to take top position with difficult games against a hot Port Melbourne and Heidelberg looming. Albion and Springvale desperate to avoid relegation will not be push-overs. May slip out of the double chance if they fail at Heidelberg in final round.

Will Finish: Fourth

THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS

at Albion
Springvale City
at Heidelberg
Fawkner
at Altona Magic

Key Match: August 2 at
Heidelberg (last time
won 5-1)

ABSW Says: May need a similar result to last time against Heidelberg in what shapes up to be a dramatic run home. Aside from playing two finals teams, the Zebras also come up against three of four relegation candidates who will be desperate for points.

Will Finish: Fifth

ST ALBANS

at Port Melbourne
Albion
at Springvale
Heidelberg
at Fawkner



Key Match: August 18
at Fawkner (last time
lost 0-1)

ABSW Says: Have the best run home of all the four relegation candidates with matches against the other three rivals in the bottom four.

Future lies in their own hands and have had a good record of escaping the drop in past years. Likely to all boil down to a showdown at Fawkner in the final round.

Will Finish: Eleventh

ALBION

Thomastown
at St Albans
Bentleigh Greens
at Port Melbourne
North Geelong



Key Match: July 28 at
St Albans (last time
lost 1-3)

ABSW Says: Arguably in the best form of the bottom four, but are not helped by the draw that really only offers North geelong in the final round as a 'easier' game. Must hope that Port Melbourne are out of finals contention by second-last week to help ease the pressure.

Will Finish: Thirteenth

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

at Fawkner
Altona Magic
at Bulleen
North Geelong
at Green Gully



Key Match: July 28
versus Altona Magic
(last time 1-1)

ABSW Says: A spectacular start for the Georgies has developed into a shaky mid-term that threatens to deny them the coveted top spot. A relatively simple run home despite three away games. Should take Fawkner, Bulleen and North Geelong if they are as good as they promised.

Will Finish: Second

GREEN GULLY

at Heidelberg
Fawkner
at Altona Magic
Bulleen
Sunshine Georgies



Key Match: this week-
end at Heidelberg (last
time lost 0-2)

ABSW Says: Three games of the last five are against definite finalists and so Gully have their destiny in their own hands. Unlikely to have the run to capture enough points with this draw.

Will Finish: Seventh.

BULLEEN

at Altona Magic
North Geelong
Sunshine Georgies
at Green Gully
Box Hill



Key Match: August 2
versus Sunshine (last
time lost 0-1)

ABSW Says: By Lions lofty standards a disappointing season of mediocrity. Will get their chance to save some face with a shot at Sunshine.

Will Finish: Eighth.

NORTH GEELONG

Bentleigh Greens
at Bulleen
Port Melbourne
at Sunshine
at Albion



Key Match: August 2
versus Port Melbourne
(last time won 3-1)

ABSW Says: Nothing but pride to play for the Warriors will have a big say in the finals make-up with Bentleigh and Sunshine on the menu.

Will Finish: Ninth

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

AUSSIES EQUAL TO OLYMPIC STANDARD

**AUSTRALIA 2
JAPAN 2 (1-1)**
Scorers: Sunni Hughes (39),
Sarah Cooper (55)

Australia's bold showing against the best footballing nations in the world continued in match three of their US Tour, this time a 2-2 draw against current Asian Champions Japan last Wednesday in Fort Lauderdale showing Australia is equal to performing at Olympic standard.

After the two brilliant 1-2 results against Olympic gold favourites USA, National coach Tom Sermanni expressed some concern that his charges may be in danger of dropping the intensity for the remaining matches against the two Asian powers, Japan and China.

But Sermanni's fears proved unfounded, Australia taking the lead twice against Japan and holding their own.

On the world scene, Japan is most noted for its professional L-League, which has brought about its rise in international rankings from twelfth to eight since the 1991 World Cup.

Sunni Hughes, Australia's all-time leading goalscorer, added to her tally in the 39th minute against the nation that has become her second home.

An L-League regular with club Matsushita Panasonic, Japan's Olympic team includes two of her teammates as well as coach Hiroyasu Yamamoto. Olympic Assistant coach Yamamoto

must have been in emotional turmoil to see his striker Hughes take the lead against Japan in its final preparations for the big stage.

Japan managed to equalise from the penalty spot just four minutes later through a questionable refereeing decision. Sermanni said of the incident, "Japan took a corner and, as soon as the ball was kicked, the referee blew his whistle. Everybody, including the Japanese, turned to the referee as if to say 'What was that for?'"

Ten minutes after the half-time break, the Aussies put the shock of the penalty behind them to celebrate a superb header from captain Sarah Cooper, converting a Bryony Duus corner.

The Australians' lead disappeared in the 65th minute, Japan again levelling the score at two apiece.

Despite further scoring chances, the deadlock remained unbroken, the final whistle heralding another splendid result for the Australian team, but one which could easily have been victory.

Play was significantly slower and less physical than the USA matches. The Aussies held possession for extended periods, but did not however take full advantage of the opportunities created through midfield and building from the back.

Performing best for Australia were Cooper, Sharon Black, Louise McMurtrie, and Bridgette Starr.

AUSTRALIA: Belinda Kitching, Sonia Gegenhuber (Shelley Youman 75), Louise McMurtrie, Krysten Swaffer,

Bridgette Starr, Sarah Cooper, Bryony Duus (Trena Youngblutt 70), Joanne Peters, Sharon Black, Sunni Hughes, Kim Revell (Tammie Thornton 65).



Joanne Peters: Assisted the Aussies to a satisfactory draw.

Powerful China scrapes past Australia

**CHINA 1
AUSTRALIA 0**

Super power China was to be the rookie Aussies' next scalp, the number four ranked team highly respected for its speed and skill, the next to have its lofty reputation mowed down by the flighty youngsters from down under.

The Chinese outfit could manage only one goal past the Australian defence in this the first of their two tests. Australia again pulled out a superb effort, adding to a run of play which has National coach Tom Sermanni ecstatic and its Olympic opponents dumbfounded.

But the Aussies thought they may never make it to the match, a series of annoying mishaps adding to the pressures of a tour which has involved a lot of travel.

After playing Japan in Fort Lauderdale the previous day, the team needed to take to the road again for the China clash. After being held up for an hour and a half debating the size of the bill at the hotel, the Aussies had to endure a five hour bus journey across Florida.

Adding to the frustrations, the bus lost its way to the ground, finally arriving just 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off. The players ran off the bus and were on the park within half an hour.

However, Australia pulled together well, ignoring the oppressive humidity and took the match right up to the Chinese.

The green and gold defence led by centre back Louise McMurtrie repelled all but one Chinese attack, and keeper Tracey Wheeler was called into action only a few times to thwart any danger.

Sermanni was again full of praise for the strength of character and dedication of his

team. He added that they were becoming much more "street smart" on the pitch, taking the necessary opportunities to slow the game down or create "refreshment breaks."

He named the best against the Chinese as Sarah Cooper, Sharon Black, McMurtrie, and Bridgette Starr.

The tour schedule concludes with a rematch against China on Sunday July 14 at the Adidas Soccer Complex in Bradenton.

AUSTRALIA: Tracey Wheeler, Sonia Gegenhuber, Louise McMurtrie, Bridgette Starr, Sharon Black (Krysten Swaffer 70), Lisa Casagrande, Sarah Cooper, Shelley Youman (Bryony Duus 45) (Trena Youngblutt 70), Kelly Golebiowski (Joanne Peters 35), Tammie Thornton, Lizzy Claydon (Kim Revell 25).



Kelly Golebiowski: Lined up against China at the tender age of 14.

Australian Junior Championships ACT overcome South Australia

ACT claimed consecutive Australian Junior Championships last Saturday on the Queensland Gold Coast, after winning their first ever national title in 1995.

The Territory with nine of those Champion players back to repeat the effort, showed again they can pull off the result in a big match situation.

ACT, despite finishing five points behind the impressive South Australians after the round-robin, were able to reverse the form guide and take victory and the Championship 3-1.

Last year it was leaders Victoria who fell to ACT in the final.

South Australia looked solid throughout the week and finished with the maximum 2 points from the round robin. Many were surprised to find the girls from the South such a skilful, talented combination. But the seeds for success were sown in 1995 when, even though finishing as woodenspooners, SA were never outclassed and lost their matches only by the odd goal.

Queensland could manage only one win from its four matches, finishing three points behind the finalists. Tasmania showed

promise with a strong finish to the week, producing draws against Victoria and Queensland.

Victoria, after last year's big effort, went without a win and slid back down to be equal last on the ladder.

Guests Auckland, not included in the points tally, proved a very worthy opponent, returning home happy with their undefeated record of 3 wins and 2 draws.

But as early as Day 2, it became evident that SA and ACT were the ones to fight it out for the honours as they broke away from the pack.

The last match of the round robin saw the two acting out a dress rehearsal for the final, both teams eager to gain the psychological advantage with a win.

The result was also vital in deciding the winner of the Association Trophy which is awarded to the leading team after the preliminary round.

ACT needed victory to claim the silverware, but could only hit the woodwork, and the winning goal was scored by South's superb attacker Jessica Halfpenny.

But ACT were determined not to let the Friday loss stand in the way of a second title. SA started strongly in the opening 10 minutes in a game very

similar to the previous day, but the result was reversed with the territory this time putting away more of its chances.

All four goals came in the first half, with ACT leading the charge. A precise through ball from Australian senior rep Amy Wilson was taken early by Danielle Hepperlin who from 15 metres struck the ball into the top of the net.

SA's defence pushed up a lot on the ACT attack, the defending champions sensing the chance of beating the offside trap. This they did, producing a number of one-on-one chances against the goalkeeper. The SA keeper was equal to the task and saved most to keep her team in the hunt.

ACT then doubled their lead with a clever ball over the top, and with SA claiming offside, striker Kim Channing took the chance well in lobbing the ball over the head of the advancing goalie.

SA pulled the deficit back to one, Halfpenny's stunning effort delighted the crowd. Flicking the ball over the head of her opponent, she caught it on the other side before striking past the goalkeeper.

But SA were immediately demoralised as ACT replied with another straight from the restart of play, Wilson

again the creator. The midfielder made a break forward and threaded the ball through for Channing to score her second from eight metres.

The 3-1 scoreline proved too much for SA who, as the game wore on, progressively tired after an intense week's football. ACT looked that little bit stronger throughout the crunch match.

SA fought hard, but the dream of a first ever Championship was not to be against a fiery ACT.

ACT: Amy Beattie, Peta-Claire Hepperlin, Felicity Cox, Laura Jennings, Kirsti Welling, Sam Sheedy, Danielle Hepperlin, Angela Osztrekovic, Dior Foxhill, Amy Wilson, Kim Channing, Michelle Singer, Teneale Bray, Sarah Mejer, Rachel English, Michelle Tifan.

COACH: Katrina Neuss.

SA: Lynn White, Stacey Stocco, Renice Reeves, Erin O'Shea, Sarah Hayes, Amanda Hewison, Anna Ruotolo, Karin Prince, Sasha Stewart, Jessica Halfpenny, Rebecca Morisson, Debbie Trubee, Sandra Slimani, Lisa Di Francesco, Kimberley Morris, Kristy Baker, Vanessa Varga.

COACH: Kevin McCormack.

1996 AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

DAY ONE: JULY 7

Auckland 1 SA 1
ACT 1 TAS 0
VIC 0 QLD 3

DAY TWO: JULY 8

Auckland 2 TAS 0
SA 2 VIC 0
QLD 0 ACT 2

DAY THREE: JULY 9

Auckland 1 QLD 0
VIC 1 ACT 1
TAS 0 SA 4

DAY FOUR: JULY 11

Auckland 0 ACT 0
SA 2 QLD 1
TAS 3 VIC 3

DAY FIVE: JULY 12

Auckland 1 VIC 0
QLD 1 TAS 1
ACT 0 SA 1

DAY SIX: JULY 13

FINAL
ACT 3 SA 1

LADDER AFTER ROUND ROBIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SA	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
ACT	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
QLD	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
TAS	4	0	2	2	4	9	2
VIC	4	0	2	2	4	9	2

CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY: ACT
ASSOCIATION TROPHY: South Australia

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Melissa Barbieri (Vic)
FAIR PLAY AWARD: Queensland

JUNIOR ALL-STAR ELEVEN

Goalkeeper

Amy Beattie ACT

Sweeper

Kate Wensley QLD

Defender

Peta-Claire Hepperlin ACT

Defender

Amanda Hewison SA

Midfielder

Brooke Short QLD

Midfielder

Amy Wilson ACT

Midfielder

Megan Bond QLD

Midfielder

Melissa Barbieri VIC

Midfielder Renice Reeves

SA

Forward

Jessica Halfpenny SA

Forward

Michelle McKenzie QLD

For Olympic Games
News, turn to page 7



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



Favourites dragging chain after scoreless draw

Peru and Argentina finish all square

**PERU 0
ARGENTINA 0**

Favourites to qualify for the 1998 World Cup in the South American qualifying rounds, Argentina, only managed a 0-0 draw against a Peruvian side that was missing star midfielder Jose Del Solar.

The game, played at Lima's National stadium, attracted more than 45,000 spectators, most of them disappointed with a draw that should have been a victory for the home team if the local strikers



Ariel Ortega: The River Plate striker could not find the net.

had netted the several easy chances they had to score the 90 minutes of play.



Diego Simeone: Argentine midfielder.

The Argentine performance, was once again, far from its best lacking depth up front and making too many mistakes at the back. The brilliance of goalkeeper German Burgos kept the visitors in the game.

Passarella's team played with ten men from the 29th minute of the first half, when AC Roma's striker Abel Balbo was sent off by Brazilian referee Mendoca Wilson Souza.

Peru: J. Balerio, N. Solano, J. Soto, J. Reynoso, P. Olivares, J. Carranza, J. Legario, R. Palacios, OP. Zagarra, F. Maestri, Julinho.
Argentina: G. Burgos, J. Zanetti, R. Sensini, J. Chamot, R. Ayala, M. Almeyda, D. Simeone, A. Ortega, H. Morales, C. Caniggia, A. Balbo.

Man of the match: Roberto Placios (Peru).

First victory for Chile

CHILE 4
Zamorano (25, 86)
Salas (76)
Estay (81)

Chile now under the guidance of Uruguayan coach Nelson Agresta, defeated high flyers Ecuador, 4-1, in a game for the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds, played at Santiago's National stadium, in front of 75,000 fans. The game was played on a heavy pitch and in heavy rain.

All four Chilean goals came from headers, the first in the 25th minute when Ivan Zamorano beat goalkeeper Carlos Morales after a good build up from fellow striker Marcelo Salas.

Ecuadorean star midfielder Alex Aguinaga equalised in the 73rd, but three minutes later Marcelo Salas scored the second for the locals. Seven minutes from the end, and when Chile was playing with only ten men, Fabian Estay added the third and Zamorano sealed the Chilean victory in the 86th.

Chilean defender Cristian Castaneda was sent off in the 78th by Bolivian referee Pablo Pena for a second bookable offence.

Chile: N. Tapia, C. Castaneda, J. C. Gonzalez, J. Margas, M. Miranda, L. Musri, E. Valencia (F. Estay), V. H. Castaneda (C. Mora), M. Vega (J. L. Sierra), I. Zamorano, M. Salas.

Ecuador: C. Morales, I. Hurtado, W. Rivera, A. Obregon (B. Tenorio), M. Tenorio (L. Gonzalez), L. Capurro, G. De Souza, H. Carabali, A. Aguinaga, A.

Montano (A. Fernandez).

Man of the match: Luis Musri.



Ivan Zamorano: The Real Madrid striker helped himself to a brace of goals.

Bolivia demolish visitors

BOLIVIA 6
Castillo (3)
Etcheverry (40pen)
Baldivieso (62)
Coimbra (67)
Suarez (77)
Paniagua (81)

Bolivia's easy win over Venezuela in the third round of the South American World Cup qualifying wasn't simple as the result shows.

The 6-1 final scoreline doesn't do justice to a Venezuelan side that, playing a counterattacking game, created several scoring opportunities but all of them wasted by the incompetence of its strikers.

The locals, playing in La Paz's Hernando Siles stadium, in front of a very parochial crowd of 45,000, never impressed as a potential candidate to go to France '98.

Bolivia went 1-0 ahead as early as the 3rd minute of play when Ramiro Castillo sent a cross to the visitors box and defender Marcos Sandy scored with a header.

The second goal came in the 40th minute when star striker Marco Etcheverry converted a penalty.

In the second half, Julio Baldivieso added the third in the 62th and three minutes later Venezuela pulled one back from a penalty well executed by Edson Tortolero.

Bolivia went further ahead in the 67th when Coimbra beat Venezuelan goalkeeper Rafael Dudamel with a header while Berthy Suarez added the fifth in the 77th and Roly Paniagua put the locals 6-1 in front.

Bolivia: C. Trucco, O. Sanchez, G. Quinteros, M. Sandy, M. Rimba, L. Cristaldo, J. Pena, J. Baldivieso, R. Castillo (R. Paniagua), Marco Etcheverry (B. Suarez), M. Coimbra (J. Moreno).

Venezuela: R. Dudamel, D. McIntosh,

VENEZUELA 1
Tortolero (65pen)

E. Tortolero, L. Gonzalez, J. Vallenilla, S. Hernandez (C. Garcia), L. Vera, J. Valiente, S. Rivas (G. Diaz), G. Savarese (G. Urdaneta), D. Guerra.

Man of the match: Ramiro Castillo (Bolivia).

WORLD CUP

QUALIFYING GROUP —

SOUTH AMERICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Colombia	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Ecuador	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Chile	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Argentina	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Bolivia	2	1	0	1	7	4	3
Uruguay	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Peru	3	0	2	1	2	5	2

Leading Goalscorers

Eduardo Hurtado (Ecuador) 3,
Ivan Zamorano (Chile),
Julio Baldivieso (Bolivia),
Faustino Asprilla (Colombia)
and Ariel Ortega (Argentina) 2.

Colombia remain top of group

COLUMBIA 3 **URUGUAY 1**
Asprilla (9) Cedres (57)
Valderrama (25)
De Avila (76)

Colombia is the leader of the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying group after a difficult 3-1 win, at home, over an understrength Uruguayan side, who collected their second defeat in a row.

The match was played at Barranquilla's Roberto Melendez stadium, in front of 40,000 spectators.

Newcastle's star striker Faustino Asprilla opened the score in the 9th minute of the first half and Carlos Valderrama added the second in the 25th. Uruguayan midfielder Gabriel Cedres, who plays for Libertadores Cup champions, River Plate of Argentina, pulled one back in the 57th, but Colombian substitute Anthony De Avila secured the hometeam win in the 76th.

Midfielders Leonel Alvarez from Colombia and Ruben Pereira of Uruguay were sent off in the second half by Argentine referee Roberto Ruscio.

Although the Colombians finished up the winners, the Uruguayans created several chances to score, but the outstanding display from local goalkeeper Farid Mondragon denied the South American champions a better result.

The Uruguayans went into the game without defenders Gustavo Mendez, Jose Herrera, Edgardo Adinolfi, midfielder Alvaro Gutierrez and strikers Marcelo Otero and Daniel Fonseca, all based in Europe.

Colombia: F. Mondragon, W. Cabrera, A. Mendoza, J. Bermudez, A. Moreno, M. Serna, C. Valderrama, L. Alvarez, F. Asprilla, V. Aristizabal (A. De Avila).

Uruguay: C. Arbiza, N. Oliveira, O. Aguirregaray, E. Moas, R. Lima, M. Saralegui, G. Cedres, R. Pereira, D. Dorta (H. Sosa), G. Poyet, L. Romero.

Man of the match: Farid Mondragon (Colombia).



Faustino Asprilla: Opened the scoring for the South American table-toppers.

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The men they couldn't hang

Norman Whiteside in conversation with Micky Brock

This was an interview conducted at the Gabbie Stadium, Blacktown, NSW on Friday July 12. Norman Whiteside was there as part of Soccer Coaching International's first up camp.

Yes, another irreverent look at football and footballers in this irregular series, brought to you by Soccer Coaching International.

MB: Being a Belfast boy yourself, can I ask you what it is about the area, considering it does have such a small population, that produces so many great sporting personalities like yourself, Mary Peters (Olympic Gold Medallist), Barry McGuigan (World Boxing Champion), Alex Higgins (World Snooker Champion) and of course George Best to name but a few. Is sport an escape perhaps?

NW: That's absolutely true about the population of course but I don't know the answer to that question. We've produced many fine sports people over the years, such as you've already mentioned, but especially in football — Bestie, Sammy McIlroy, Dave McCreary, Jimmy Nicholl and Chris McGrath readily spring to mind. I cannot put my finger on the button and say exactly what it is but you mention "escaping". You cannot escape anything unless you're good enough, unless you have the skills or talent. You

must have those to have people who want to take you away from your hometown. As I said, I don't know the answer to the question but we do seem to produce many fine athletes.

MB: I note you're too modest to mention that you have to work damn hard to achieve it too! Moving on to your playing career, 24 April 1982, a raw 16 year old apprentice called Norman Whiteside was unleashed on English football with only 12 minutes remaining of a match at the Goldstone Ground. You came on as a sub for Mike Duxbury and within minutes, Ray Wilkins scores his first goal for the club in almost two years as you come away 1-0 winners over Brighton.

NW: Strange as it may seem, it all happened quite quickly because I had an operation previous to this on my knee and I never actually kicked a ball competitively until about February that year. I'd been out for about eight months, from the previous July so from my knee operation I almost walked straight into the first team. As you say, with 12 minutes to go I came on and the funny part about it was that I was on 16 pounds a week (\$32) as an apprentice and when Ray Wilkins scored that goal, because it was near the end of the season and the win bonus structure had been

accumulating, I got a 600 pound win bonus that day. It's a long time ago now but for me to be on 16 quid a week as an apprentice and then get a 600 pound win bonus for just being on the pitch for 12 minutes was great. I managed to stay in the squad for a few more games than and I ended the season with about 2,500 quid, just for being a part of the team for the last couple of weeks of the season.

MB: You actually scored your first league goal in the last game of the season at home to Stoke City in a 2-0 win, Bryan Robson netting the first.

NW: That's right. Stevie Coppell crossed and I headed home. It was after that particular game that I really became a part of the first team starting line-up. That's when it all started for me basically, all within that 2-3 week period.

MB: The following season 1982-83 saw the first of your Wembley Cup Final appearances after a couple of lucky semi-final matches against Arsenal. You netted the first in the League Cup final against Liverpool but eventually lost 1-2. After scoring that one you must have thought "it doesn't get any better than this". However, you followed this up with the FA Cup Final and you scored in the replay of that against Brighton.

NW: That was the first season when I played virtually all the games but I wasn't ever a prolific goalscorer. I did manage to score some important goals, especially against the Gunners. In fact I scored in both semi-finals against them, one at Highbury (League Cup) and one at Villa Park (FA Cup). The Villa Park one is

probably one of my favourites, even more so as it helped take us, to Wembley for the FA Cup (knowing I'm an Arsenal fan, Norman takes great delight in telling me this).

The first Final goal was memorable for obvious reasons but the goal I got against Brighton meant I became the youngest player to score in an FA Cup Final at the age of 18 years and 19 days.

MB: You did of course score the winner in extra-time against Everton, (whom you eventually were to join), in the FA Cup Final of 1985. Was it any the sweeter because you stopped them winning the "treble" that term, as they had already won the Championship and League Cup, or as a professional was it "business as usual"?

NW: If truth be known, I was stuck out on the right wing getting back from the last attack because I was knackered, Mark Hughes found me with this fantastic ball.

What I used to do in training was to try and line up the 'keeper behind the defender so as to restrict his view. When "Sparky" played that ball I just thought "Get to the edge of the box". I looked up and saw that Neville Southall had his hand on the goalpost and Pat Van Den Hauwe, the defender, was just to my left. I remember thinking "Come on Norman, just do something" and was about to hit the ball when Pat obstructed Neville's view. Perfect. I hit the ball and by the time that Nev saw it, that was the distance it was from his hand. Luckily it went in because it never used to work in training. As for the extra pleasure of stopping them doing the "Treble", it never even came into it. It was a job to be done and you try and do it to the best of your ability.

MB: You are also accredited with being the youngest ever player to appear in the World Cup Finals when playing for Northern Ireland in Spain in 1982. As with Rugby Union in Ireland, would you perhaps like to have seen an "all-Ireland" team?

NW: No, I don't think so. First and foremost, no Northern Ireland player would get into the team, they would all come from the south. Northern Ireland can hold their own as we proved in a couple of World Cups in 1982 and 1986 when we played in Mexico. The reason we got through wasn't because of our skill factor but because of our friendship, our family spirit and the will to want to do well and I don't think you can break that up. Without being political or bringing in religion which doesn't come into it, but that plays a part in the question you ask about an all Ireland side. The powers that be upstairs, they make the decisions and as far as the people from both the Irish Football Associations, I can never see the day when it will happen.

MB: On to November 1986, Ron Atkinson's reign comes to an



Norman Whiteside: World class experience on view at Blacktown.

end amid speculation of disciplinary problems at Old Trafford. There was an alleged sparring match between Remi Moses and Jesper Olsen at the training ground and you were mentioned in a triumvirate with Bryan Robson and Paul McGrath as being involved in "heavy drinking" sessions. Can you scotch these rumours, no pun intended, or indeed confirm them?

NW: As for the boxing match, I was there, I played the pass (this was said tongue in cheek by

Norman and should not be taken too seriously, MB). All I can say is that we enjoyed a drink at the proper time. If you ask the manager who was the first three names on the team-sheet, it was Robson, McGrath and Whiteside. Just to further that point, if you look back to 1986-87, possibly 1988, the English League had it's Centenary when they played the Rest of the World side. Who was the three boys representing Manchester United? Robson, McGrath and Whiteside again. We

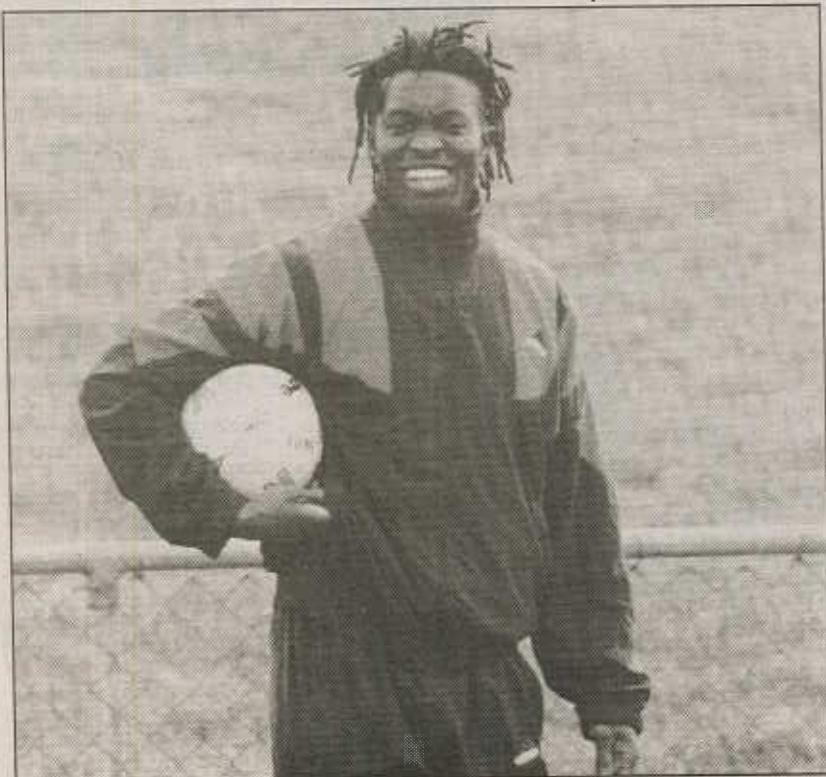
represented the English League, played the Rest of the World and beat them, Robson scored two and Whiteside one at Wembley.

I hope that answers the question. We liked a few pints of course but at the right times. So long as it didn't affect our performance on the park, no one can question it.

We leave the interview here for this week — but watch out for some more candid and revealing answers next issue.



Frank Farina: Another Aussie star at the camp.



Francis Awaritefe: Took part in the Soccer Coaching International camp.

.....Scottish Grounds and Clubs.....

BY STUART JONES

ARBROATH FC

Ground:	Gayfield Park
Address:	Gayfield Park, Arbroath, DD11 1QB
Railway Station:	Arbroath (15 min walk)
Founded:	1878
Admitted to League:	1902
Ground Capacity:	6488
Seats:	715
Pitch Size:	115 yards by 71 yards
Largest Gate:	13,510 vs Rangers Scot. Cup Rd 3, 23 Feb 1952
Biggest Win:	36-0 vs Bon Accrd Scot. Cup Rd 1, 12 Sept 1885 World Record League Match score
Biggest Loss:	1-9 vs Celtic Lge Cup Rd 3, 25 Aug 1993
Nickname:	The Red Lichties
Colours:	Maroon with Sky Blue trim
Honours:	No major Honours

History: From 1878 until 1880 the club played at the Hospital Field Estate with the sea on one side and the railway line on the other.

Old Gayfield (which was then new) was opened in 1880 after it had been redeveloped from a rubbish tip.

It was a very tight ground and along one side there was not enough room for spectators.

In 1885 the club scored its most famous of all victories 36-0. Arbroath bought up some land on the sea side and extended the ground eastward, then in 1921

the club joined the league. The condition of Arbroath buying the ground was that if they folded it would revert to public use.

On March 28, 1925 the club played its last game at the old ground before the pitch was moved 60 yards south west. Greater Gayfield was officially opened on 29th August 1925.

In 1952 the club saw its ground record broken with 13,510 coming to watch a cup tie versus Rangers.

In October 1955 temporary floodlights were erected.

One report on the first

game played there was that a hefty clearance by a player actually smashed one of the lights!

In 1970 the floodlights were replaced by better ones, and in 1986 these were also improved. In September 1958 the Main Stand caught fire causing £7000 damage.

In the 1970s and 1980s the ground was redeveloped with a new board room and better terracing.

The ground is the closest to the sea than any other in Britain.

Last season the club finished fifth in Division Three.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

By Stuart Jones

What a week for transfers. Foreign players are being snapped up from everywhere, many clubs taking advantage of the Bosman case, as well as those big transfers so well publicised. In all the news maybe one of the biggest stories happened at Arsenal.

It did not cost anything in terms of a transfer fee but it is very important to the club. Ian Wright, after all the speculation near the end of last season, has declared he is staying at Arsenal. "I'm an Arsenal player and want to be until told differently," is what he was quoted as saying in the British papers last week.

Meanwhile Leicester lost their striker Iwan Roberts to Wolves, which could be a big blow. He was the centre of attack for the last couple of seasons and without him Leicester really do look in trouble. Meanwhile Wolves look strong title contenders next season but the pressure will be enormous on McGhee, Hickman and co.

Meanwhile a few of the young guns of the game have moved clubs. Lee Bowyer's move is well publicised. He will be a great player and should step into Gary Speed's position at Leeds. Andy Booth did join Sheffield Wednesday. The most surprising move is Ben Thatcher's choice of Wimbledon. Clubs like Arsenal will be very disappointed in missing out on Thatcher — of all the players mentioned (and I have seen all three play) I believe Thatcher has the most potential. His choice of Wimbledon over some of the bigger clubs is a bit surprising.

The foreign influx is on with Italians, Romanians, Dutch, Australian, Belgium, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish, French, and Colombian players all playing in the English Premier League. However one manager is not so impressed. David Pleat is looking to offload Marc Degryse after getting rid of Petrescu and Kovacevic. He says it is foreign players' gypsy — like attitude. It may be a gypsy like attitude but best of luck to them — if you get the likes of Weah for one year then you would take it up.

The claim in the papers is that West Ham are the team of foreign stars which is true. They also claim that this will affect their young players who won the Youth FA cup this year.

If you look at the statistics of young players who have made it after winning the Youth FA cup it makes some interesting reading.



In 1984 Everton won the Youth FA cup and, of that team only two made the top grade. In 1987 it was Coventry's turn yet only one made the top grade, Steve Livingstone. The 1989 Watford side only had David James come through. The 1991 Millwall side had 3 players, the 1994 Arsenal side two.

There are exceptions of course for example the Man Utd FA Youth cup winning side had Pilkington, G. Neville, Beckham, Butt, Davies, Gillespie, and Giggs (left). Plus P. Neville and Cooke were reserves.

So will the influx of foreigners stop English talent blossoming? I do not think so but maybe it will blossom in lower division clubs first, which will be good for the standard of the game in the football league. Then they will get money for developing the players.

Yes it will affect the youngsters at West Ham but how many would have made it anyway? The cream always rise to the top whatever the circumstances, maybe they need to hone their skills in the lower leagues first.

The current Foreign influx of players will only happen for a couple of years until another league goes big money. In the end it's all about money and you can not blame the players for that — they are only in the game a brief time and they have a very right to take what the big clubs are offering them whether that be in England or elsewhere in Europe.

Britain should learn from the foreigners playing so as to increase the quality in the British Leagues.

Read a great book this week for all those supporters of club who have played in the Southern League. "The Official Centenary History of the Southern League — 1894-1994" compiled by Leigh Edwards is a complete history of all the teams involved in the Southern League from Tottenham Hotspur to Banbury United!

It shows the history of some of the great league clubs before they were famous. It also has profiles of some of the great players who played in the Southern, like Greaves, Hurst, and Milburn. Plus great managers like Stock, Chapman, Allison, and Atkinson. Details of the book's availability are at the normal UKSSD address.

Do referees make mistakes? Of course they do. Here is a classic example. In April 1952 Spurs won by the odd goal. Bailey, a Spurs player had taken the corner and it had hit the referee, Bailey centred the rebound and Spurs scored. The ref allowed the goal despite the fact no player had touched the ball before Bailey had hit the ball again. Huddersfield were eventually relegated and Spurs took second place on goal average — over Arsenal.

TV deal prompts strike threat

English players will vote this week on whether to take strike action over the payment of television cash, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) has said.

The premier league, which has its own TV deal, would not be affected but the threat hangs over the 72 clubs in the other divisions.

The PFA plans to issue ballot forms to the players to ask for a mandate to strike after being told that the Football League would not be handing over the usual 10 percent of television revenue to the union.

The League recently struck a \$A49 million coverage deal with Sky TV.

"If the players so voted then no game would take place because this is purely about a TV agreement," PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor told British radio.

More than 1,500 professional players at the 72 league clubs would be asked to vote.

Football League assistant secretary Andy Williamson insisted the League would not increase their seasonal payment.

Last season the Italian Serie A was disrupted as those players withdrew their labour.

A further threatened strike was called off after last minute discussions.



New Chairman named for FA

The English Football Association (F.A.) named Keith Wiseman as its new chairman here last week.

The 51-year-old solicitor, vice-chairman of premier league club Southampton, succeeds Bert Millichip (right) who stepped down at the end of last month's European Championship after 15 years in the job.

Wiseman, who won a four-way leadership battle to land the job, has been on the F.A. council for three years and is a member of UEFA's club competitions' committee.



SEASON TICKET SALES BOOMING

Demand for season tickets at England's Premiership clubs is higher than ever following the success of Euro 96 and the influx of foreign stars.

At Middlesbrough, club spokesman Ian Richardson reveals 99 per cent of season tickets for the Riverside Stadium have already been snapped up, a total of 26,500.

"There is real excitement in the city after the \$A13.73 million signing of Fabrizio Ravanelli. Last season at this time we had sold 18,000 tickets, but the record deals since then have pushed sales up very quickly."

"All we have left now is the odd one or two seats together. Everyone wants to see how Ravanelli can link up with the Brazilians." The former Juventus star will line up alongside Brazilian trio Juninho, Emerson and Branco.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson is delighted with the fans' response. "Season ticket sales are up by 30 per cent and the demand is so high that no more will be on sale after next Wednesday" (tomorrow).

And West Ham manager Harry Redknapp's busy period of transfer activity at Upton Park has helped increase sales with an unprecedented number of new applications from fans keen to get in on the action.

A spokesman for the club's box office said: "We are still

processing applications but already we are up to about 12,000, which is 500 more than last year.

"It helps that we finished in a good position last year but the main reason is we have made some good signings like Florin Raducioiu and Paulo Futre so we are doing pretty well here."

At Everton, box office manager David Goodwin said last year's total of 22,000 season tickets sold had almost been reached already with record demand for seats.

He added, "Sales are excellent and as most people buy just prior to the start of the season, we are looking to sell a lot more and considering whether we should put a limit on how many we make available."

North London rivals Arsenal and Spurs have both sold as many tickets as they managed in total last season, with the latter ordering extra books to be printed after a 25 per cent rise in sales on this time a year ago.

Even Wimbledon, who will admit it has experienced difficulty in bringing in the crowds in recent years, has good news to report.

A spokesman for The Dons explained, "Sales are definitely up on last season's 3,000, but we don't have any definite figures yet because the computer has been down for three weeks, but we know we have a lot of new buyers."

UK STORIES

Pompey could tempt Venables

Terry Venables could take the unexpected step of becoming a co-owner of first division Portsmouth after turning down money-spinning offers from abroad.

The former England coach is not short of admirers outside his own country.

Venables, who stood down last month after guiding England to the semi-finals of Euro 96, has had the Turkish national job and club coaching positions at Paris St Germain, Napoli and FC Porto reported to be his for the taking.

But it has always been his dream to be in club ownership, an ambition that has not been dulled by his infamous Tottenham bust-up with one-time partner Alan Sugar, and he is now considering an offer to help revive the flagging fortunes of Pompey.

Fratton Park chairman Martin Gregory, who was reported in the London Daily Mirror to have offered to hand Venables a half-share of the south-coast club with no financial commitment, is quoted as confirming: "We have had talks with Terry, but I was hoping to keep this secret."

"I will be providing the finances and Terry would provide the expertise, contacts and football know-how."

"It would be an equal partnership and, with Terry's help, this club can take off."

Venables is a close friend of Gregory's father, Jim, the man who appointed him manager of Queens Park Rangers in the 1980s.

And before jetting off on a family holiday, the former England coach told the Daily Mail: "I still don't really know where my future lies, but Jim Gregory is an old friend and I will do anything I can to help."

Gregory junior, owner of the Blue Star garage group which recently loaned cash-strapped Portsmouth money to pay the players' wages during the summer, has been running the club on behalf of his owner father, who has been in ill health.

"I estimate that to be in the Premiership we would need a minimum of \$A30 million to spend on players. I have that money, but it's all tied up in bricks and mortar at the moment," he said.

Venables' magic is certainly needed by Pompey, who last season escaped relegation to the second division only by goal difference.



Terry Venables: Needed to revive the Pompey Chimes.

Embarrassment all round over Shearer

Manchester United received an apology after a travel company admitted an employee had added Alan Shearer's name to the club's pre-season tour squad.

The firm Travel Management suspended the person involved after a day-long inquiry left several red faces, with Shearer still in the royal blue and white of Blackburn.

United has made repeated approaches to prise the England striker from Ewood Park, offering more than \$A23.52 million for the man it wants to spearhead their assault on the Champions' League.

United will fly to Italy at the end of the month to take on Inter Milan in the San Siro on July 31 in a friendly match.

The match was arranged as part of a \$A13.72-million deal which took Paul Ince into Serie A last summer.

Inter's stadium-sharers AC Milan are also among clubs coveting 25-year-old Shearer, who has scored more than 100 Premiership goals in just over three full seasons with Blackburn

since making the \$A7 million switch from Southampton.



Alan Shearer: 'Sold' to United by a travel agent.

Spanish eyes on Ginola

French ace David Ginola is involved in transfer negotiations that could see him switch from Newcastle United to Barcelona - his agent confirmed last Wednesday.

Barcelona are now under new coach Bobby Robson, the former England manager, and have targeted the winger with silken skills who entered the hearts of Newcastle fans last season after a \$A3.16 million move from Paris St Germain.

Barcelona have bid around \$A5.05 million for the French star, according to a report in the French newspaper L'Equipe.

Ginola's departure to Barcelona after just 12 months would come as a bitter blow to the Newcastle fans. He won them over in a short space of time with his willingness to take players on in the hurly-burly of Premiership football.

He was, however, deeply disappointed with Newcastle's failure to lift the title last season after establishing a 12-point lead over Manchester United.

Ginola was then omitted from France's Euro 96 squad as his form dipped towards the end of the campaign.

Ginola is currently on a family holiday and expected back at Newcastle soon for pre-season training.

Manager Keegan could be reluctant to let Ginola go, especially as he has not strengthened his side during the close season.

There was major reaction on Tyneside, where Ginola is affectionately known as the

"Frog on the Tyne" — after a popular song "Fog on the Tyne" by local band Lindisfarne.

Ginola was last year reported to have signed a four-year contract with Newcastle and to have vowed to help the club to the championship in 1997.

Ginola, though, may be ready to cut his ties with Newcastle if Barcelona push their interest in him.



David Ginola: Geordieland to Catalonia?

Adaptation necessary for Vialli at Chelsea

Italian striker Gianluca Vialli will have to adapt quickly to the rough and tumble of English soccer and the leniency of British referees, his player-manager Ruud Gullit said last week.

"It's important that Vialli adapts to life in England and the premier league," Gullit said as the shaven-headed forward started his first training session with his Chelsea team mates.

"In Europe, you cannot make tackles with your studs showing but it is different in England. The referees tend to allow it."

"The English game is different in other ways. You have to give 100 percent all the time, whereas in Italy there is a slower build-up."

The Dutchman, who in May coaxed Vialli to Stamford Bridge from European champions Juventus with the promise of attractive football and the bright lights of west London, said Vialli must settle off the pitch as well as on it.

"It is vital that he speaks the language and he has a month and a half to learn." Vialli, who spoke little English when he arrived in London, admitted he still felt



Vialli: Chicken Tikka Massala for Lasagna.

somewhat overawed.

"This is like the first day at school for me and I feel like a young boy arriving at a new place," he said.

"I know the fans expect a lot from me but I think there will be less pressure here than there was in Italy, both on and off the field."

Gullit, who also snapped up Vialli's compatriot Roberto Di Matteo and

French defender Franck Leboeuf last month, said he would not dip into the transfer market again before the league season begins on August 17.

"I have all the players I need and there will be no more coming in," he said. "I have the spine of the team. It is like a skeleton. Once you have the spine you build around it."

Inter interest in Seaman

Inter Milan are poised to make a bid for England's Euro 96 hero David Seaman (right).

The 32-year-old Arsenal goalkeeper is thought to be the Italian giants' No 1 target with millionaire owner Massimo Moratti set to finance a money-no-object deal.

Seaman's agent Steve Kuttner, "Yes, we have had an approach from Inter and I will discuss it with Arsenal. I am sure David will be interested to know how highly the Italians rate him."

Seaman became a Wembley hero with penalty saves against Scotland and Spain during an impressive European Championship tournament that saw him emerge as Europe's top keeper.

If Inter's English boss Roy Hodgson clinches the deal it would see Seaman link up in Serie A with England team-mate Paul Ince.



MARK WRIGHT RECOVERS FROM INJURY



Liverpool defender Mark Wright has recovered from a knee injury which ruled him out of England's Euro '96 squad.

"I went in on Tuesday and did some running and it went very well, no problems," Wright said last week.

Most of Liverpool's players returned for pre-season training last Thursday.

Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp have been given extra holiday time because of their involvement in Euro '96.

FOREST SIGN CROATIAN DEFENDER



Croatian defender Nikola Jerkan has signed a \$A1.97 million deal with English Premier League club Nottingham Forest.

The 31-year-old has agreed a three-year contract with Forest manager Frank Clark, the club said last Monday.

Euro 96 analysed

BY STEVE DARBY — COACH & TV COMMENTATOR

A great many emotive and subjective words have been written about Euro 96 and that is to be expected, for soccer is many things to different people. The beauty of the game is that it is emotive and people from different ages, cultures and philosophies will all have diverse views on the game.

However, we can take an objective analysis of a certain feature of Euro 96 and apply it to the game in Australia. This feature is the goals scored in the competition, how they were scored, how we can adapt our training to replicate the elite players and teams in the world.

THE RAW INFORMATION

In simple statistical terms: 64 goals were scored in the competition; 62% were scored in the second half; 87% were scored from within the penalty box (13% outside); 28% with a left foot shot; 53% with a right foot shot; 19% with a header; 20% were scored from set pieces (penalties/free kicks/corners); 60% were scored from the first touch; 18% were scored from two touches; 22% were scored from 3 or more touches.

Obviously different interpretations can be drawn from the statistics. Some with differing answers, such as why were 62% of goals scored in the second half of games?

Was it due to tactics or fitness levels? Or is 28% of goals scored with the left foot a normal ratio to the left footed players or are footballers becoming more two footed? Obviously debate can begin over these questions.

Also from comparison with other football tournaments the success rate from set pieces at this championship of only 20% is very low.

The normal success rate is deemed to be between 35% and 40%. Is this due to poor set pieces or were teams defending better at set pieces?

As 6 of the 13 goals from set pieces were from penalties, it does seem to suggest that little attention was being paid to free

kicks or corners.

The free kick attempts by Hagi and Stoichkov stood out in the memory and also the England away swinging corners aimed at Sheringham.

However, there are statistics that cannot be open to debate and that being that the vast majority of goals (87%) were scored from inside the penalty box and 60% of the goals were scored from one touch by the player (in fact only two-one touch goals were scored from outside the box, a Stoichkov free kick and a McCoist shot).

The obvious implication from this is that at training, the majority of shooting practice must take place in the penalty box where the striker only get one touch (or a maximum of two) of the ball.

Any one who watched the game closely would also see that the majority of the goals came from crosses or through balls. So once again these types of situations must be replicated in training.

If you are a current player of the game, think of some of your existing training sessions. Ask the question: are the routines practiced relevant to your actual game situations?

Also if the majority of goals come from certain situations, then it is essential that our goalkeeping practices mirror the striking practices. Why have keepers make spectacular practice saves from long shots when in reality they need shots from close range with a quick reaction time.

Over a season it would also pay a team to have a number of well rehearsed simple set pieces. In addition it is essential to get the team to be disciplined in defence at set pieces. If your team can score the normal 35% of set pieces and reduce the set piece goals against, you will certainly pick up more points each season.

This article is not about giving coaching sessions as every coach has their own creative ideas that suit their players. However, all good coaches think about their sessions and plan for them.

It is essential then that we analyse the reality of football at the highest level and learn about the most important part of the game...scoring goals.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER LEAGUE



STIRLING MACEDONIA